



Queensway Gold Project Environmental Registration

April 2026



NEWFOUNDGOLD

Executive Summary

New Found Gold Corp. (New Found Gold) is proposing the Queensway Gold Project (the Project), a new open pit gold mine, located east of the Town of Appleton, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). The Project represents a transition from several years of exploration at the site to full-scale mining, supported by favourable geological results and a development strategy that enables New Found Gold to advance production while continuing exploration activities across the remainder of the Queensway Property. It will unlock valuable mineral resources, support regional economic growth, and strengthen Canada's and NL's position in the global mining sector.

The Project involves the development of four open pits, a waste rock storage facility, overburden storage facility, ore stockpiles, a modular crushing and sorting plant, and associated operational infrastructure including access and haul roads, water management facilities, and administrative and maintenance shops (Figure 1). The mine will produce approximately 700 tonnes per day of pre-concentrated product feed, which will be transported to the existing, permitted Pine Cove processing facility, located on the Baie Verte Peninsula, for final processing.

The Project has a mine life of seven years, based on current production rates. The construction period will occur over a four-to-six-month period. Progressive rehabilitation will occur as appropriate throughout operation, with final rehabilitation and closure after mining operations have been completed. Post-closure monitoring will follow.

The Project will generate substantial employment and economic benefits in the region, including more than 200 full-time equivalent positions during construction and an estimated peak of more than 230 full-time equivalent positions during operation. New Found Gold is committed to local training, employment, and servicing opportunities and will also update its Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan to promote an inclusive workforce. New Found Gold is committed to the local community and provides financial and volunteer support for events in Appleton, Glenwood, Gander, and surrounding areas.

The Project is subject to provincial environmental assessment requirements under the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act* (NL EPA) and associated *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. As an undertaking involving the mining and preparation of a mineral, the Project must be registered as per Section 33(2) of the Regulations. This Environmental Registration has been prepared in accordance with provincial EA guidance. The Project is not listed under the federal *Physical Activities Regulations* of the *Impact Assessment Act* and therefore does not require a federal impact assessment.

Through thoughtful planning, use of existing processing capacity, and integration of progressive rehabilitation and environmental protection measures, the Project is designed to support responsible resource development while contributing to local and regional economic growth. New Found Gold is committed to environmental stewardship by reducing their footprint through limiting impacted areas and rehabilitating after work is complete, meeting or exceeding regulatory compliance, managing waste responsibly, and monitoring the environment to better understand and mitigate their potential impacts.

\\ca0151-ppfss01\work_group\1214\active\12141759603_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2026-04-28 By: mwhite

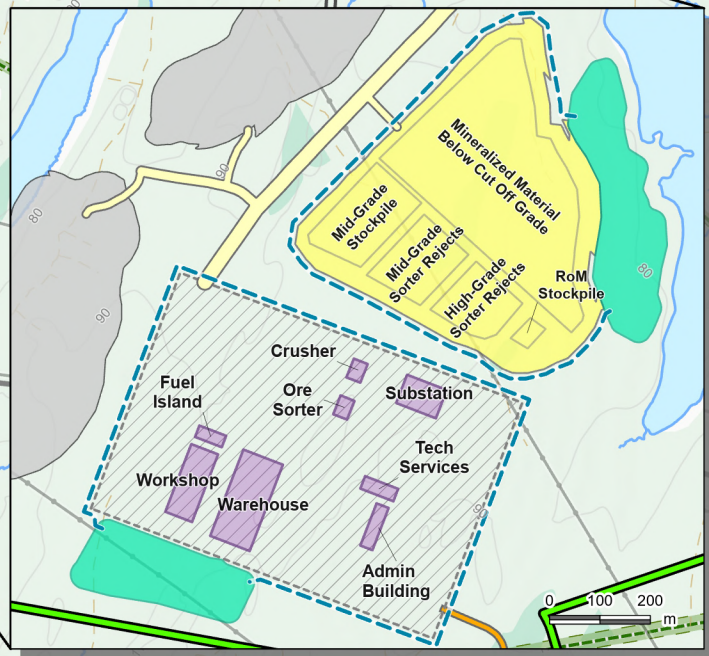
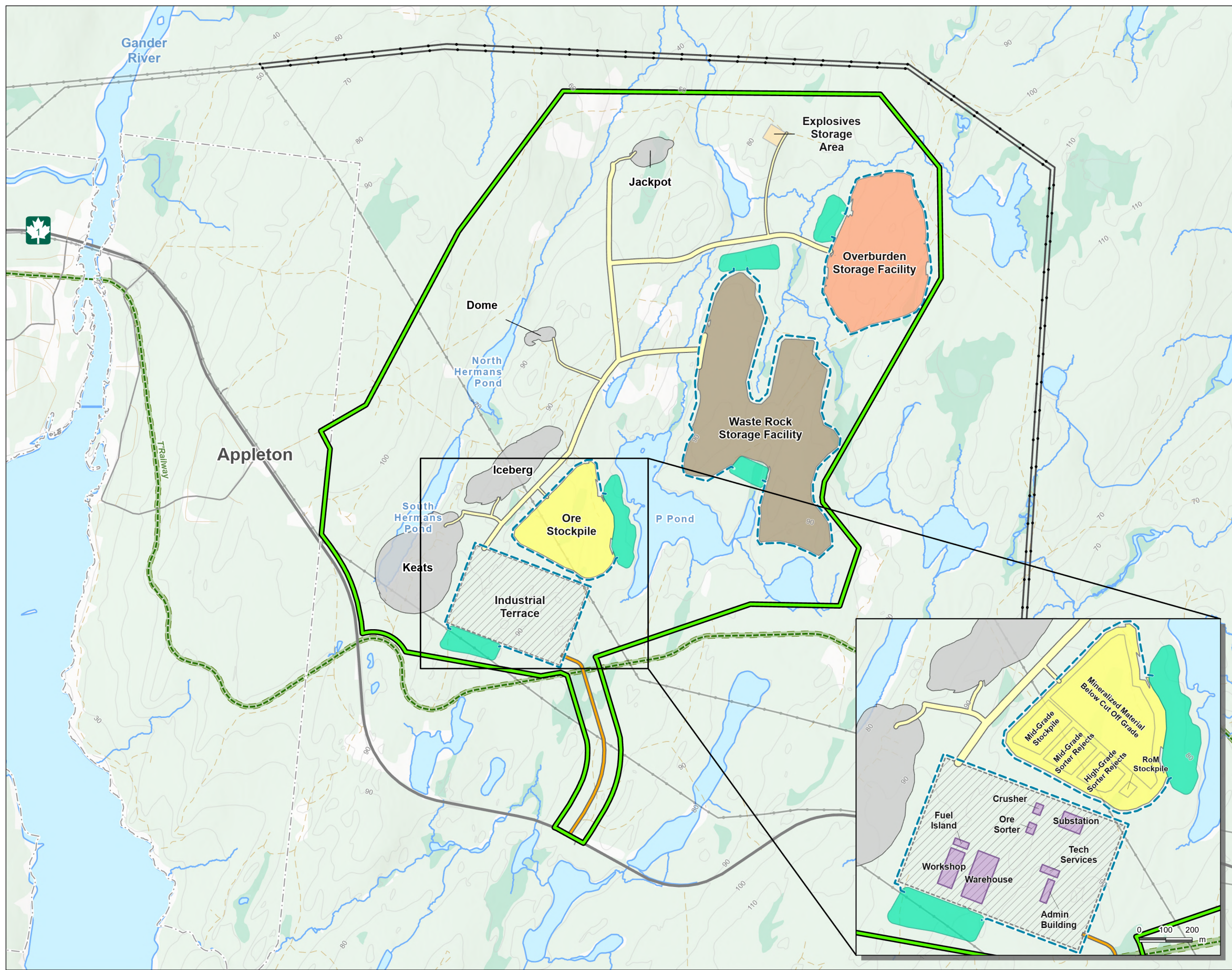
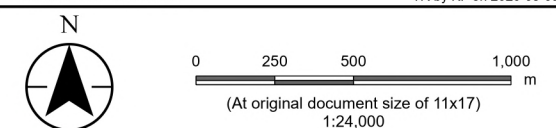


Figure No. **1**
Title
Queensway Gold Project
Proposed Site Layout

Client/Project 121418510_135
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project

Project Location North Gander Lake
 Newfoundland and Labrador

Prepared by NW on 2026-03-09
 QR by PM on 2026-04-14
 TR by KF on 2026-03-09



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Area | Existing Infrastructure |
| Access Road | — Transmission Line |
| Haul Road | — Proposed Transmission Line (Re-routing) |
| Ditch | — Highway |
| Open Pit | — Collector |
| Ore Stockpile | — Local / Street |
| Overburden Storage Facility | — Resource Road / Trail |
| Waste Rock Storage Facility | — NL T'Railway Route |
| Sedimentation Pond | — Provincial Park |
| Other Mine Features | Wetlands and Waterways |
| Industrial Terrace | — Watercourse |
| Building | — Waterbody |
| | — Wetland |
| | — Forested Area |
| | Other Features |
| | — Contour (10 m) |
| | — Municipal Boundaries |



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada.
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping, Topographic Mapping - Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS



Engagement

New Found Gold is committed to ongoing engagement with the public, Indigenous groups, local communities, regulators, and other stakeholders throughout development of the Project. New Found Gold has conducted public open houses in the Towns of Appleton and Gander and met with the town councils and Indigenous groups. An online land and resource use survey was conducted, and a traditional land use study was commissioned from Qalipu First Nation. These activities have helped New Found Gold better understand the views of the local communities, how the region is currently being used, and potential concerns and/or questions about the Project. Feedback obtained from these engagement efforts has been and will continue to be used to inform Project design and mitigation measures.

New Found Gold's formal Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will continue to guide communication, relationship-building, and participation throughout the life of the Project. This approach includes regular community meetings, open forums, and discussions with government departments to promote transparency and to reflect local knowledge, interests, and perspectives in Project planning.

Consistent with provincial EA expectations, New Found Gold will apply an adaptive management approach to engagement and mitigation. Feedback received during future engagement will be reviewed alongside monitoring results and regulatory guidance to identify opportunities to refine mitigation measures, monitoring programs, and engagement practices. Where monitoring or engagement identifies unanticipated effects or concerns, New Found Gold will work with regulators and stakeholders to identify appropriate responses.

By maintaining open communication, responding to concerns, and working collaboratively with communities and stakeholders, New Found Gold aims to support regional well-being, uphold trust, and contribute positively to communities in the area, as demonstrated by the letters of support received from the Towns of Appleton and Gander.

Environmental Setting

The Project is located immediately adjacent to, and slightly overlapping, the municipal boundary of the Town of Appleton, approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) east of Glenwood, and 6.3 km west of Gander, placing it in close proximity to these three communities. The surrounding area supports a variety of recreational and harvesting activities, including hunting, fishing, berry picking, wood cutting, and use of the T'Railway Provincial Park (the T'Railway). The landscape around the Project is largely natural with limited existing development aside from trails, cabin areas, and access routes.

The site is situated within the Northcentral subregion of the Central Newfoundland Forest ecoregion, which is characterized by warm summers, relatively low precipitation, and boreal forest communities. The area supports diverse natural ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, scrubland, and waterbodies. Wildlife surveys in the general region of the Project have documented typical boreal species, including American beaver, black bear, moose, Canada lynx, and several bat species. Birds are abundant, with over 70 species recorded, ranging from raptors and woodpeckers to songbirds and waterfowl. Several species at risk and species of conservation concern inhabit or have the potential to occur in the region, including endangered bats, caribou, rare insects, and American marten. Birds listed under federal protection, such as olive-sided flycatcher and rusty blackbird, were identified, alongside rare flora species. Expert Opinion Maps indicated that other protected species, including boreal felt lichen, are possible, but unlikely to occur within the 5 km radius surrounding the Project site.

The Project also lies within the Gander River Watershed, a well-known area for recreational fishing, with lakes, ponds, wetlands, and forested areas that support a range of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The Gander River Watershed, the third largest in Newfoundland, provides varied aquatic habitats supporting fish such as Atlantic salmon, brook trout, and American eel, the latter being considered threatened.

The Project Area overlaps the Gander Lake Protected Public Water Supply Area. Gander Lake provides a potable water supply for the Towns of Appleton, Glenwood, and Gander, as well as supporting recreational activities, natural resource extraction, and urban development.

The Queensway Property has also been the focus of long-term mineral exploration, with decades of sampling, trenching, drilling, and geophysical surveys contributing to the understanding of gold occurrences in the region. The Project Area is influenced by several regional land-use considerations, including the Trans-Canada Highway corridor, the T’Railway, cottage areas, and existing transmission lines. New Found Gold is currently engaging with NL Hydro, NL Power, and Bell Aliant to have these power and fibre transmission line corridors relocated at New Found Gold’s expense.

Scope and Methods

The approach for this assessment is based on methods developed to fulfill requirements of the NL EPA for an Environmental Registration document. While it meets the requirement of guidance published by EA Division, it also provides a fulsome assessment of potential Project-related effects. The scope of assessment considers: the proposed Project components and activities; knowledge of the existing conditions; sensitivities of the surrounding environment and potential resource conflicts; applicable regulations, policies, and guidelines; the influence of engagement conducted thus far; and professional experience and expertise of New Found Gold and its consultants. The approach assumes a precautionary, conservative approach with assumptions generally applied to overestimate potential adverse effects.

The Environmental Registration examines the effects or changes to the physical, biological and socio-economic environment that could result from the Project. It focuses on valued components (VCs), which were selected based on several factors, including requirements of the provincial guidelines, results of engagement, the role of the VC in the ecosystem, and the importance placed on it by local communities, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders. For each of the VCs assessed for the Project, the Environmental Registration:

- Defines the scope of the VC
- Characterizes existing conditions within the spatial boundaries of each VC. To help understand the existing conditions for each VC, baseline conditions were characterized using publicly available information, and Project-specific field programs conducted from 2022 to 2026. Note that in some cases, analysis and reporting of these data are not yet available and will be provided to regulators at a later date
- Employs conservative assumptions so that potential adverse effects are generally overestimated rather than underestimated

- Identifies mitigation and environmental protection measures to reduce or eliminate adverse effects. Many of the potential adverse environmental effects can be managed by following accepted mining procedures and best management practices and New Found Gold's commitment to comply with regulatory standards
- Describes residual environmental effects, including a determination of their significance, using criteria developed for each VC
- Proposes follow-up and monitoring where there may be data gaps or some uncertainty around an effects prediction or effectiveness of mitigation

In addition to Project-related environmental effects, this Environmental Registration also provides an assessment of potential effects that the environment (e.g., climate change, seismic events) may have on the Project, and an assessment of accidental events.

Summary of Residual Effects

As part of the planning phase for the Project, aspects of the Project concept and engineering design have been refined and adapted to reduce environmental and social effects, and in consideration of feedback that New Found Gold has received through engagement efforts. The following design considerations and key factors have therefore been considered in the assessment of residual effects:

- Project ore will be processed at the Pine Cove Mill on the Baie Verte Peninsula, which is also the primary processing facility for the Hammerdown mining operation. Use of this permitted and operating facility limits wastes, discharges and emissions at the Queensway site.
- The closest residence in the Town of Appleton is located approximately 610 metres (m) from the closest Project component. Site infrastructure is located east of the open pits to reduce noise and other impacts on the Town of Appleton. An earth berm is proposed to provide additional noise mitigation for receptors near or within the Town of Appleton during Project operation. It will be strategically located between the Keats pit and the Town of Appleton to attenuate noise propagation and reduce sound levels at nearby receptors.
- Stockpiles have been located at a distance away from the Trans-Canada Highway and the T'Railway to reduce visual effects from Project components to nearby land users. Additionally, within the industrial terrace, the crusher has been located at a distance from the T'Railway to reduce sensory disturbances (i.e., noise and dust emissions) to recreational users along the T'Railway.
- Primary mine infrastructure is located within a single sub-watershed (Herman's Pond) that drains to the Gander River (downstream of Gander Lake) and avoids the Joe Batt's Pond watershed and associated cottage development area.
- The Project includes the development of a new site access road from the Trans-Canada Highway for the primary access for employee transportation, supply deliveries, and highway truck haulage of ore to the Pine Cove processing facility. This new access point will reduce additional truck traffic associated with the Project on roads within the Town of Appleton. The site access road has been strategically located to reduce interaction between light vehicles and mine haulage trucks, consistent with best practices for safe mine operation.
- Site water management will discharge downstream of Gander Lake, with measures in place to address potential effects on recreational users in the area and to safeguard the public water supply.

- As streams, rivers and ponds in the area provide habitats for various life stages of fish species, the Project has been designed to limit loss of fish habitat through careful planning of the placement of infrastructure and shifting locations of activities away from watercourses and waterbodies, as practically feasible.
- New Found Gold will work towards returning the Project site to as close to pre-Project conditions as practical, with due consideration to the aesthetics that existed prior to mining.
- The current four-pit development schedule enhances prudent resource management and is based on feedback from regulators.

The environmental assessment predicts that Project activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects on the VCs. The general results of the assessment for Project activities are summarized below.

- **Atmospheric Environment:** Activities associated with construction, operation, and rehabilitation and closure of the Project have the potential to affect air quality, sound quality, and ambient light levels. As part of the assessment, air dispersion and noise emissions from the Project were modelled to determine the nature and extent of residual effects from Project activities, such as material handling, hauling on unpaved roads, crushing and screening, and operation of mobile and stationary equipment. The air dispersion modelling demonstrated that through the use of real time monitoring and adaptive management, including temporary suspension of activities such as hauling and crushing during particularly dry periods, the Project can operate in compliance with the provincial ambient air quality standards. While noise levels are predicted to increase at nearby receptors, based on modelling and implementation of mitigation measures, including construction of an earth berm, the increase in noise levels is also predicted to comply with Health Canada guidelines. Sound pressure levels are predicted to be below background noise levels within approximately 2 km of the Project Area. The lighting design during all Project phases will follow industry best practices that achieve requirements for worker safety and operation while also reducing light trespass, glare, and sky glow contributions to acceptable levels. Residual environmental effects on the Atmospheric Environment are therefore predicted to be not significant.
- **Groundwater Resources:** Groundwater resources support baseflow to streams for ecological habitat and provide fresh water for human and industrial/commercial uses. Project activities could influence groundwater quantity through localized drawdown associated with open pit dewatering, and groundwater quality through changes in groundwater chemistry related to Project infrastructure. Potential effects on groundwater quantity and flow were modelled, which indicated that the water table will be lowered locally as a result of open pit dewatering, thereby altering groundwater flow patterns and recharge rates, and affecting groundwater discharge to surface water features and wetlands. This effect will be most notable during the operation phase, and to a lesser extent during closure as the open pits fill and groundwater levels recover; however, there are no known third-party groundwater users located where lowering of the water table is predicted. The main residual effect on groundwater quality is the transport of contact seepage from the overburden storage facility, ore stockpile, and waste rock storage facility to surface water receptors. This effect will be mitigated through installation of interception wells or deep sumps within the perimeter drainage ditches of these Project components that will intercept the seepage as required to allow for treatment prior to discharge to the environment. Based on the results of

baseline groundwater quality characterization, groundwater modelling, and identified mitigation measures, residual environmental effects on Groundwater Resources are predicted to be not significant. A groundwater monitoring program will be developed based on regulatory requirements for both quantity and quality that will be conducted during construction and operations, and continued during closure, which will document water quality and recovery in groundwater levels across the Project Area.

- **Surface Water Resources:** Surface water is an integral component of the regional environment, providing aquatic habitat, supporting downstream ecosystems, and contributing to local socio-economic and recreational values within the Gander River watershed. Activities throughout the Project may interact with the local surface water receiving environment, resulting in changes to surface water quantity and surface water quality. As part of the assessment, a water balance, water quality model and assimilative capacity study were completed. For surface water quantity, the magnitude of residual effects with the implementation of mitigation measures is predicted to be a moderate change for the individual Herman's Pond and unnamed Gander Lake Tributary sub-watersheds, with changes in mean annual flow over 10% causing potential localized residual effects. Mine contact water will be collected, treated and discharged from two final discharge points in North Herman's Pond and P-Pond waterbodies and in compliance with provincial and federal discharge requirements prior to entering the receiving environment. An assessment was done for the worst-case scenario, which indicated that the mixing zone for the treated discharge could extend 50 m into the Gander River before water quality is expected to return to either baseline levels or below the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life. Non-contact surface waters are expected to remain at baseline conditions. A surface water monitoring program will be established to confirm compliance with regulatory requirements, support predictions of effects of the Project on water quality, identify changes in drainage patterns and surface water flow, and determine if additional mitigation measures are required. Based on the application of mitigation measures, including the Water Management Plan, best management practices, and New Found Gold's commitment to comply with applicable federal and provincial regulatory requirements, residual environmental effects on Surface Water Resources are predicted to be not significant.
- **Fish and Fish Habitat:** Fish and fish habitat may be affected by Project activities through changes to surface water and groundwater quality, alterations to stream flow and physical disturbance associated with in-water works and stream crossings. The Project occurs within the Gander River watershed, with Atlantic salmon, brook trout, sticklebacks, and American eel known to reside in the region. The Project has been designed to avoid fish habitat to the extent practicable through careful siting of infrastructure, and standard mitigation and best management practices will be implemented to manage potential effects when working in or near water, including erosion and sediment control, maintaining riparian buffers where feasible, designing stream crossings to provide fish passage, and meet regulatory discharge limits. Loss of fish habitat is anticipated, including the dewatering of South Herman's Pond due to pit development. This habitat loss will be authorized and counterbalanced through an Offsetting Plan and follow-up monitoring. With avoidance, mitigation, offsetting, and environmental protection measures in place, Project-related effects are not expected to affect the sustainability of fish populations, and residual adverse effects on Fish and Fish Habitat are predicted to be not significant.

- **Terrestrial Environment:** The Project has the potential to interact with the terrestrial environment, including vegetation, wetlands, avifauna, and other wildlife (including species at risk and species of conservation concern), through direct habitat disturbance and indirect effects such as noise, dust, light, hydrological changes, and human activity. The Project Area is a largely disturbed landscape, with extensive mineral exploration on the western side and areas of recent forest harvesting on the eastern side. Ongoing exploration activities at the Project site, combined with historical forest harvesting, existing rights-of-way (e.g., roads, transmission lines), and nearby residential development, have likely resulted in avoidance of the area and/or habituation/accommodation to the activities by some wildlife. Mitigation measures and best management practices will be implemented to reduce vegetation removal, wetland disturbance, and habitat alteration. Sensitive features such as wetlands, rare plants, nests, roosts, and dens will be avoided or buffered where feasible, and timing restrictions, speed limits, lighting controls, and prohibitions on hunting or wildlife harassment will reduce mortality risk. While some long-term changes to wetland function and habitat are anticipated, these effects are relatively limited in extent and are not expected to affect the long-term viability of vegetation communities, wildlife populations, or species at risk. With the implementation of mitigation measures and New Found Gold's commitment to comply with regulatory requirements, residual environmental effects on the Terrestrial Environment are anticipated to be not significant.
- **Communities:** Project activities have the potential to result in both positive and adverse effects on nearby communities, including effects on employment and the economy, community services and infrastructure, and community well-being. Positive effects are expected to be associated primarily with local and regional employment, increased income, and business opportunities. Potential adverse effects related to housing, infrastructure, health, emergency services, and community well-being are anticipated to be limited, given the relatively small size of the Project workforce and New Found Gold's commitment to prioritize hiring from local and regional communities. The majority of Project workers are expected to commute from nearby communities, which will reduce demands on permanent and temporary accommodations, and other community services. Project design measures, including the development of a dedicated site access road, are expected to reduce Project-related traffic on local roads. New Found Gold will implement a range of management plans and workplace policies aimed at promoting a safe, respectful, and inclusive work environment, supporting employee well-being, and reducing demands on local services. With the application of mitigation and management measures, residual adverse effects on Communities are anticipated to be not significant.
- **Land and Resource Use:** The Project may affect land and resource use within and near the Project Area and its socio-economic value to the region. Project activities can change the use of lands through the loss of area and the restriction of access to designated lands (i.e., wildlife management areas), and lands used for resource or recreational uses. However, residual effects on land and resource use are not anticipated to exceed or contravene applicable federal, provincial, or municipal land use designations, policies, or by-laws. Project-related activities are also not expected to restrict or degrade land and resource use capacity to a level where activities cannot continue at or near current levels over the long term. The Project Area is a partly disturbed landscape, with ongoing mineral exploration and historical forestry activity, and overlaps a small proportion of regional land and resource use areas. Based on a land and resource use survey conducted to support the Environmental Registration, recreational and harvesting activities, such as berry picking, firewood cutting, hunting, fishing, and hiking are known to occur in the vicinity of

the Project Area given the abundance of access trails and roads. Current recreational activities generally include the use of the T’Railway, which will not be restricted by the Project. The related change in the affected land base represents a small area and given there are numerous opportunities for recreational activities outside of the Project Area, it is predicted that these activities will be able to continue at or near current levels. During rehabilitation and closure, New Found Gold will work toward returning the Project Area to conditions as close to pre-Project as practical, with consideration of landform stability and visual aesthetics. Based on the application of mitigation and management measures, including ongoing engagement with local land and resource users, and adherence to regulatory requirements, the residual environmental effects on Land and Resource Use are expected to be not significant.

- Historic Resources:** Ground disturbance associated with Project construction activities has the potential to disturb or damage historic resources, including archaeological and palaeontological materials, and may affect the contextual integrity (horizontal and vertical depositional relationships) from which such resources derive much of their value. However, construction of the Project is unlikely to result in significant residual effects on Historic Resources, as no registered sites are known to be present within the Project Area, and a Historic Resources Impact Assessment completed in 2023 found no significant surface or subsurface archaeological materials within areas of elevated potential. Although areas of higher archaeological potential were identified along certain waterbodies and shorelines through the Historic Resources Overview Assessment, field investigations confirmed low archaeological potential within assessed areas, and avoidance or additional investigation will be implemented where practical. For unassessed high-potential areas, buffer setbacks and further field verification will be completed prior to ground disturbance, where required. Standard mitigation measures, including a Discovery of Historic Resources Contingency Plan to address unexpected finds, will further reduce the likelihood of adverse effects. Based on the application of mitigation measures and New Found Gold’s commitment to comply with the *Historic Resources Act* and regulatory requirements, residual environmental effects on Historic Resources are anticipated to be not significant.

New Found Gold will develop and implement environmental management tools for Project construction, operation, and rehabilitation and closure, including management plans, mitigation measures, response plans, and follow-up and monitoring programs. These tools are intended to support the implementation, verification, and adaptive management of permitting conditions and the commitments identified in this Environmental Registration throughout the life of the Project. Management plans to be developed and/or updated for the Project will include an Environmental Protection Plan, Environmental Spill Response Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan, Water Management Plan, Environmental Contingency Plan, Blast Management Plan, Metal Leaching/Acid Rock Drainage Management Plan, and effects monitoring plans.

Conclusion

Mitigation measures and contingency approaches identified in this Environmental Registration, along with management plans and policies to be developed or updated for the Project, will be implemented to avoid or reduce potential residual effects on the VCs. The effects assessment indicates that routine Project activities are not expected to result in significant adverse environmental effects on the VCs.

New Found Gold is committed to the sustainable and responsible development of the Queensway Gold Project, as reflected in the Company's core values, commitment to environmental stewardship, and approach to community engagement. Since acquiring the Queensway Property, New Found Gold has advanced the Project through exploration drilling, technical studies, and environmental baseline programs to support informed Project planning and regulatory review. The Project is expected to generate meaningful socio-economic benefits for central Newfoundland, including direct and indirect employment, opportunities for local businesses and service providers, and investment in regional infrastructure. Given the Project's proximity to the Towns of Appleton, Glenwood, and Gander, and New Found Gold's commitment to prioritizing local hiring and procurement, it is anticipated that a substantial portion of the workforce will be drawn from nearby communities. Development of the Project will contribute to NL's mining sector and support Canada's broader mineral development objectives by advancing a new gold mine operation designed to leverage existing, permitted processing infrastructure, while generating economic benefits for the province.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Table of Contents	xi
Acronyms / Abbreviations.....	xxii
1 Introduction	1-1
1.1 Name of Undertaking	1-1
1.2 Overview of the Undertaking.....	1-1
2 Proponent Information	2-1
3 Project Purpose and Regulatory Framework.....	3-1
3.1 Purpose / Rationale / Need for Undertaking	3-1
3.2 Regulatory Framework.....	3-2
3.3 References.....	3-5
4 Project Description	4-1
4.1 Geographical Location	4-1
4.1.1 Land Tenure	4-3
4.1.2 Environmental Setting	4-3
4.2 Site History.....	4-23
4.3 Schedule	4-28
4.4 Project Components.....	4-29
4.4.1 Overview of Mine Development Plan	4-29
4.4.2 Organics and Overburden Storage Facility	4-35
4.4.3 Waste Rock Storage Facility	4-35
4.4.4 Run-of-Mine Pad	4-36
4.4.5 Crushing and Sorting Plant	4-38
4.4.6 Roads	4-40
4.4.7 Electrical and Communications Infrastructure.....	4-41
4.4.8 Buildings and Supporting Infrastructure	4-43
4.4.9 Explosives Storage Area	4-44
4.4.10 Water Management.....	4-44
4.5 Project Activities.....	4-51
4.5.1 Early Works Construction Activities.....	4-51
4.5.2 Construction	4-51
4.5.3 Operation.....	4-54
4.5.4 Rehabilitation and Closure	4-63
4.6 Ore Processing	4-65
4.7 Emissions, Discharges, and Waste	4-69
4.7.1 Air Contaminant Emissions	4-69
4.7.2 Sound Emissions and Vibration	4-75
4.7.3 Light Emissions	4-77
4.7.4 Effluent Discharges	4-77
4.7.5 Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage	4-77
4.7.6 Solid and Hazardous Waste.....	4-82
4.8 Employment and Expenditures	4-84
4.8.1 Employment.....	4-84
4.8.2 Expenditures.....	4-87
4.9 Environmental Management Measures	4-87
4.9.1 New Found Gold’s Approach to Environmental Management	4-87
4.9.2 Management Plans	4-88
4.9.3 Standard Mitigation Measures.....	4-92
4.10 Project Alternatives	4-99
4.10.1 Alternatives to the Project	4-99

4.10.2	Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project.....	4-99
4.11	References.....	4-105
5	Engagement.....	5-1
5.1	Overview of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.....	5-1
5.1.1	Objectives of the Engagement Strategy.....	5-2
5.1.2	Engagement Principles and Approach.....	5-2
5.1.3	Identification of Indigenous Communities and Other Stakeholders.....	5-3
5.1.4	Engagement Methods and Tools.....	5-4
5.1.5	Reporting and Record Keeping.....	5-6
5.1.6	Grievance Management Procedure.....	5-7
5.2	Results of Stakeholder Engagement to Date.....	5-8
5.2.1	Public and Stakeholder Engagement.....	5-8
5.2.2	Indigenous Engagement.....	5-12
5.2.3	Regulatory Engagement.....	5-13
5.3	Feedback.....	5-14
6	Assessment Scope and Methods.....	6-1
6.1	Overall Approach.....	6-1
6.2	Scope of the Assessment.....	6-1
6.2.1	Scope of the Project.....	6-1
6.2.2	Selection of Valued Components.....	6-2
6.2.3	Assessment Boundaries.....	6-2
6.3	Potential Project Interactions.....	6-3
6.4	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	6-5
6.5	Residual Environmental Effects.....	6-5
6.6	Follow-up and Monitoring.....	6-5
7	Atmospheric Environment.....	7-1
7.1	Existing Conditions.....	7-3
7.1.1	Regulatory and Policy Setting.....	7-3
7.1.2	Approach and Methods.....	7-9
7.1.3	Description of Existing Conditions.....	7-13
7.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways.....	7-20
7.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	7-20
7.4	Residual Environmental Effects.....	7-22
7.4.1	Change in Air Quality.....	7-23
7.4.2	Change in Sound Quality.....	7-52
7.4.3	Change in Light Levels.....	7-58
7.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs.....	7-59
7.5.1	Air Quality.....	7-59
7.5.2	Sound Quality.....	7-59
7.6	References.....	7-60
8	Groundwater Resources.....	8-1
8.1	Existing Conditions.....	8-3
8.1.1	Approach and Methods.....	8-3
8.1.2	Description of Existing Conditions.....	8-4
8.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways.....	8-33
8.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	8-33
8.4	Residual Environmental Effects.....	8-34
8.4.1	Analytical Assessment Techniques.....	8-35
8.4.2	Change in Groundwater Quantity.....	8-36
8.4.3	Change in Groundwater Quality.....	8-43
8.4.4	Summary.....	8-53
8.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs.....	8-54
8.6	References.....	8-55

9	Surface Water Resources	9-1
9.1	Existing Conditions.....	9-3
	9.1.1 Approach and Methods	9-3
	9.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	9-13
9.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	9-33
9.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	9-34
9.4	Residual Environmental Effects	9-35
	9.4.1 Change in Surface Water Quantity.....	9-36
	9.4.2 Change in Surface Water Quality.....	9-50
	9.4.3 Summary	9-67
9.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	9-67
	9.5.1 Surface Water Quantity Monitoring	9-67
	9.5.2 Surface Water Quality Monitoring	9-68
9.6	References.....	9-68
10	Fish and Fish Habitat.....	10-1
10.1	Existing Conditions.....	10-3
	10.1.1 Approach and Methods	10-3
	10.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	10-8
10.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	10-28
10.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	10-29
10.4	Residual Environmental Effects	10-31
	10.4.1 Change in Fish Habitat Quantity	10-31
	10.4.2 Change in Fish Habitat Quality.....	10-36
	10.4.3 Change in Fish Health and Survival.....	10-38
	10.4.4 Summary	10-40
10.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	10-41
10.6	References.....	10-41
	10.6.1 Literature Cited	10-41
11	Terrestrial Environment.....	11-1
11.1	Existing Conditions.....	11-4
	11.1.1 Approach and Methods	11-4
	11.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	11-8
11.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	11-24
11.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	11-26
11.4	Residual Environmental Effects	11-28
	11.4.1 Change in Wetland Function.....	11-30
	11.4.2 Change in Species Diversity, Vegetation Community Diversity, and/or Habitat	11-33
	11.4.3 Change in Mortality Risk	11-39
	11.4.4 Summary	11-40
11.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	11-42
11.6	References.....	11-42
	11.6.1 Literature Cited	11-42
	11.6.2 Personal Communications	11-51
12	Communities	12-1
12.1	Existing Conditions.....	12-3
	12.1.1 Approach and Methods	12-3
	12.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	12-4
12.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	12-16
12.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	12-17
12.4	Residual Environmental Effects	12-19
	12.4.1 Change in Employment and Economy	12-20
	12.4.2 Change in Infrastructure and Services	12-24
	12.4.3 Change in Community Well-being.....	12-28

	12.4.4	Summary	12-31
12.5		Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	12-31
12.6		References	12-31
	12.6.1	Literature Cited	12-31
	12.6.2	Personal Communications	12-34
13		Land and Resource Use	13-1
	13.1	Existing Conditions.....	13-3
		13.1.1 Approach and Methods	13-3
		13.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	13-5
	13.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	13-21
	13.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	13-22
	13.4	Residual Environmental Effects	13-23
		13.4.1 Change in Designated Land Use	13-25
		13.4.2 Change in Resource Use	13-27
		13.4.3 Change in Recreational Use	13-30
		13.4.4 Summary	13-31
	13.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	13-32
	13.6	References.....	13-32
14		Historic Resources	14-1
	14.1	Existing Conditions.....	14-3
		14.1.1 Approach and Methods	14-3
		14.1.2 Description of Existing Conditions.....	14-5
	14.2	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways	14-17
	14.3	Mitigation and Management Measures.....	14-18
	14.4	Residual Environmental Effects	14-19
		14.4.1 Loss or Disturbance of Historic Resources	14-19
		14.4.2 Summary	14-20
	14.5	Follow-up and Monitoring Programs	14-20
	14.6	References.....	14-21
		14.6.1 Literature Cited	14-21
15		Effects of the Environment and Accidental Events.....	15-1
	15.1	Effects of the Environment on the Project	15-1
		15.1.1 Climate Change.....	15-2
		15.1.2 Natural Hazards.....	15-5
	15.2	Accidental Events and Response Planning	15-6
	15.3	References.....	15-10
16		Summary of Environmental Effects	16-1
	16.1	References.....	16-11
17		Project Related Documents	17-1
	17.1	List of Appendices.....	17-1
	17.2	Baseline Studies	17-1
	17.3	Other Studies	17-2
		17.3.1 Technical Studies	17-2
		17.3.2 Other EA Documents	17-2
	17.4	References.....	17-3
18		Funding	18-1
19		Signature.....	19-1

List of Figures

Figure 1 Project Site Layout ii

Figure 1.1 Project Location 1-2

Figure 1.2 Overall Site Layout 1-3

Figure 4.1 New Found Gold Leases 4-4

Figure 4.2 Project Area and Existing Environment 4-5

Figure 4.3 Winds at Gander, NL (2020 - 2024) 4-17

Figure 4.4 Seasonal Winds at Gander, NL (2021 - 2024) 4-18

Figure 4.5 Preliminary Project Schedule 4-28

Figure 4.6 Site Layout 4-30

Figure 4.7 Conceptual Iceberg Open Pit Design 4-32

Figure 4.8 Open Pit Design Parameters 4-33

Figure 4.9 Ramp Design Parameters 4-33

Figure 4.10 Material Movement 4-34

Figure 4.11 Example of a Modular Crushing Plant 4-38

Figure 4.12 Pre-Concentration Equipment 4-39

Figure 4.13 Pre-Concentration Flowsheet 4-40

Figure 4.14 Existing and Proposed Powerline Routes 4-42

Figure 4.15 Watersheds that Overlap the Project Area 4-45

Figure 4.16 Wetlands and Waterways Near the Project 4-50

Figure 4.17 Total Tonnes Mined - by Material Type 4-55

Figure 4.18 Total Tonnes Mined - by Zone 4-56

Figure 4.19 30-Tonne Haul Truck for Ore Transport to Off-site Processing Facility 4-61

Figure 4.20 Route to Pine Cove Processing Facility 4-62

Figure 4.21 Pine Cove Mill and Mine Infrastructure 4-67

Figure 4.22 Earth Berm Location 4-76

Figure 4.23 Alternate Locations of Mine Waste Disposal (Stantec 2024e) 4-103

Figure 7.1 Atmospheric Environment Spatial Boundaries 7-2

Figure 7.2 Monitoring Locations 7-11

Figure 7.3 Distribution of Artificial Lighting Within and Surrounding the Project (World Atlas of the Artificial Night Sky Brightness 2015) 7-19

Figure 7.4 Proposed Project Source Locations 7-30

Figure 7.5 Sensitive Receptor Locations 7-34

Figure 7.6 Maximum Predicted 1-hour Concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (including background) for Full Operations 7-42

Figure 7.7 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (including background) for Full Operations 7-43

Figure 7.8 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Total Particulate Matter (including background) for Full and Reduced Operations 7-44

Figure 7.9 Maximum Predicted 1-year Concentration of Total Particulate Matter (including background) for Full Operations 7-45

Figure 7.10 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Particulate Matter (< 10 microns) (including background) for Full and Reduced Operations 7-46

Figure 7.11 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Particulate Matter (< 2.5 microns) (including background) for Full and Reduced Operations 7-47

Figure 7.12 Maximum Predicted 1-year Concentration of Particulate Matter (< 2.5 microns) (including background) for Full Operations 7-48

Figure 7.13 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Aluminum (no background data) for Full and Reduced Operations 7-49

Figure 7.14 Maximum Predicted 24-hour Concentration of Iron (no background data) for Full and Reduced Operations 7-50

Figure 7.15 Location of Nearest Points of Reception and Noise Sources during Project Operation 7-55

Figure 7.16 Predicted Day-Night Sound Pressure Level (L_{dn}) (dBA) from Project Activities 7-57

Figure 8.1 Groundwater Resources Spatial Boundaries 8-2

Figure 8.2	Surficial Geology	8-5
Figure 8.3	Bedrock Geology	8-7
Figure 8.4	Regional Hydrogeology	8-8
Figure 8.5	Groundwater Monitoring Well and Borehole Locations.....	8-10
Figure 8.6	Hydraulic Testing Results Collected from Single Well Response Tests (Slug Tests), Packer Tests, and Short-Term Pumping Tests (with Depth in mbgs).....	8-17
Figure 8.7	Hydrograph of Shallow and Deep Paired Monitoring Wells 23MW-02S/D	8-25
Figure 8.8	Hydrograph of Shallow and Deep Paired Monitoring Wells 23MW-12S/D	8-25
Figure 8.9	Groundwater Contours	8-27
Figure 8.10	Baseline Groundwater General Chemistry Compared to Atlantic RBCA, GCDWQ, and MDMER Criteria	8-30
Figure 8.11	Baseline Groundwater Dissolved Metals Chemistry Compared to Atlantic RBCA, GCDWQ, and MDMER Criteria	8-31
Figure 8.12	Piper Plot of Baseline Groundwater Chemistry	8-32
Figure 8.13	Surface Water Catchment Zones	8-37
Figure 8.14	Predicted Water Table Drawdown (Operation Phase).....	8-39
Figure 8.15	Predicted Water Table Drawdown (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase)	8-41
Figure 8.16	Predicted Particle Traces from Project Components to the Receiving Environment (Operation Phase)	8-46
Figure 8.17	Predicted Particle Traces from Project Components to the Receiving Environment (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase).....	8-51
Figure 9.1	Surface Water Resources Spatial Boundaries	9-2
Figure 9.2	Surface Water Monitoring Locations	9-6
Figure 9.3	Typical Stilling Well for Continuous Level Logger Installation.....	9-7
Figure 9.4	Peters River Watersheds.....	9-9
Figure 9.5	Baseline (Pre-Development) Watersheds	9-10
Figure 9.6	Intensity-Duration-Frequency Curves for Gander International Airport.....	9-15
Figure 9.7	Projected IDF Curve at Gander International Climate Station – SSP2-4.5, Projection Period 2021-2050	9-18
Figure 9.8	Projected IDF Curve at Gander International Climate Station – SSP2-4.5, Projection Period 2021-2050	9-20
Figure 9.9	Mean Monthly Flows for Selected WSC Stations.....	9-21
Figure 9.10	Peak Flow and Watershed Area Relationship for Regionally Selected WSC Stations	9-21
Figure 9.11	Flow Duration Curves of Selected WSC stations	9-22
Figure 9.12	Peter’s River Model Calibration – January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2005	9-25
Figure 9.13	Baseline Model Hydrograph for North Herman’s Pond Outlet	9-25
Figure 9.14	Construction / Operation Watersheds	9-37
Figure 9.15	Rehabilitation and Closure Watersheds	9-38
Figure 9.16	Mine Year 1 Conceptual Water Balance Model	9-40
Figure 9.17	Mine Years 5-7 Conceptual Water Balance Model	9-41
Figure 9.18	Iceberg Pit Natural Pit Filling	9-44
Figure 9.19	Keats Pit Natural Pit Filling	9-45
Figure 9.20	Locations of Final Discharge Points	9-56
Figure 10.1	Fish and Fish Habitat Spatial Boundaries	10-2
Figure 10.2	Aquatic Study Area	10-5
Figure 10.3	Fish Habitat in the Queensway Gold Study Area	10-10
Figure 10.4	Predicted Loss of Fish Habitat	10-34
Figure 11.1	Terrestrial Environment Spatial Boundaries	11-3
Figure 11.2	Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern Documented During Baseline Surveys.....	11-13
Figure 11.3	Caribou Observations Near the Project RAA	11-23
Figure 12.1	Communities Spatial Boundaries	12-2
Figure 12.2	Population of the Local Assessment Area, 1986 – 2021	12-5
Figure 12.3	Population of the Regional Assessment Area, 1986 – 2021	12-5
Figure 12.4	Educational Attainment of the Local Assessment Area, 2021	12-6
Figure 12.5	Educational Attainment of the Regional Assessment Area, 2021.....	12-6

Figure 13.1	Land and Resource Use Spatial Boundaries	13-2
Figure 13.2	LRU Survey Study Area	13-4
Figure 13.3	Land Use Zoning within the Regional Assessment Area	13-7
Figure 13.4	Wildlife Management Areas within the Regional Assessment Area	13-12
Figure 13.5	Mining and Quarry Activity within the Regional Assessment Area	13-18
Figure 13.6	Forestry Management Districts and Domestic Wood Harvesting Areas within the Regional Assessment Area	13-20
Figure 14.1	Historic Resources Spatial Boundaries	14-2
Figure 14.2	Historic Resources Overview Assessment Study Areas	14-4
Figure 14.3	Known Historic Resource Sites	14-12
Figure 14.4	High Archaeological Potential Areas	14-15

List of Tables

Table 3.1	Concordance with Requirements for an Environmental Registration	3-2
Table 3.2	Federal and Provincial Legislation that Could Apply to the Project	3-3
Table 3.3	Potential Approvals, Authorizations, And Permits – for Mine Development at The Queensway Property	3-4
Table 4.1	Distances to Communities	4-2
Table 4.2	Material Types Assessed in the Ongoing ML/ARD Testing Program	4-7
Table 4.3	Summary of Geochemical Tests by Material Type	4-9
Table 4.4	Acid Generation Potential of Waste Rock, Overburden, and Mineralized Material	4-10
Table 4.5	Leaching Potential of Waste Rock, Overburden, and Mineralized Material	4-11
Table 4.6	Climate Normals, Gander, NL (1991 - 2020)	4-16
Table 4.7	Summary of Historic Drilling at Queensway	4-24
Table 4.8	Summary of Historic Exploration Work Completed on the Queensway Property	4-25
Table 4.9	Queensway Pit Physical Parameters	4-31
Table 4.10	Queensway Ore	4-33
Table 4.11	Queensway Material Breakdown	4-34
Table 4.12	Stockpile Estimated Yearly Addition and Withdraw	4-37
Table 4.13	Proposed Road Dimensions	4-41
Table 4.14	Water Management Plan Objectives	4-48
Table 4.15	Planned Production Schedule for the Project	4-55
Table 4.16	Mining Fleet Per Year	4-56
Table 4.17	Support Fleet Per Year	4-56
Table 4.18	Blasting and Number of Drills Needed Per Year	4-58
Table 4.19	Average Daily Trips on the Haulage Roads	4-59
Table 4.20	Provincial and National GHG Emissions (2023)	4-70
Table 4.21	Diesel, Explosive, and Electricity Use During Operation	4-72
Table 4.22	GHG Emissions During Construction	4-73
Table 4.23	Peak Annual GHG Emissions (Y5)	4-73
Table 4.24	Annual GHG Emissions During Operation	4-74
Table 4.25	Summary of Operational ML/ARD Sampling Program	4-78
Table 4.26	Waste Handling, Storage, and Disposal Categories	4-83
Table 4.27	Construction and Operation Related Employment	4-85
Table 4.28	Estimated Operational Expenditures (C\$M) for the Project	4-87
Table 4.29	Existing and Proposed Management Plans	4-89
Table 4.30	Overview of the Proposed Updated EPP	4-90
Table 4.31	Standard Mitigation Measures	4-93
Table 4.32	Summary of Processing Options	4-100
Table 4.33	Summary of Mining Method Options	4-101
Table 4.34	Summary of Pre-concentration Options	4-102
Table 4.35	Summary of Pit Development Options	4-104
Table 5.1	Stakeholder Engagement Summary	5-4
Table 5.2	Summary of Grievance Management Procedure	5-8
Table 5.3	Details of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Conducted to Date	5-9

Table 5.4	Details of Indigenous Engagement Conducted to Date	5-13
Table 5.5	Engagement Feedback	5-15
Table 6.1	Potential Project Interactions with Valued Components	6-3
Table 7.1	Newfoundland and Labrador Air Quality Standards	7-3
Table 7.2	Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards	7-4
Table 7.3	Environmental Lighting Zones	7-7
Table 7.4	Recommended Maximum Values of Light Trespass (Illumination) per Environmental Zones	7-7
Table 7.5	Recommended Maximum Values for Glare (Intensity of Luminaires)	7-8
Table 7.6	Reference Levels of Sky Glow	7-9
Table 7.7	Maximum Values of Upward Light Ratio of Installation	7-9
Table 7.8	Background Concentrations Used in Assessment	7-15
Table 7.9	Baseline L_d and L_n Values	7-17
Table 7.10	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Atmospheric Environment	7-20
Table 7.11	Air Contaminants Releases – Construction Phase	7-25
Table 7.12	Sources of Air Contaminants and Release Estimation Methods – Operation Phase	7-27
Table 7.13	Air Contaminants Releases – Operation Phase	7-31
Table 7.14	Sensitive Receptor Locations	7-32
Table 7.15	Maximum Predicted Ground-level Concentrations – Operation	7-37
Table 7.16	Maximum Predicted Ground-level Concentrations at Sensitive Receptors (Bolded Entries Exceed the Threshold)	7-38
Table 7.17	Frequency of Exceedance at Each Sensitive Receptor	7-40
Table 7.18	Maximum Predicted Ground-level Concentrations –Reduced Operations Scenario	7-41
Table 7.19	Sound Power Levels for Mobile Equipment	7-54
Table 7.20	Sound Power Levels for Stationary Noise Sources	7-54
Table 7.21	Sound Power Levels from Material Hauling	7-54
Table 7.22	Sound Pressure Levels, Day-Night Sound Pressure Level (L_{dn}), and Change in Percent Highly Annoyed (%HA) at Points of Reception near the Project	7-56
Table 8.1	Well Construction Details for Existing Water Wells within the LAA/RAA	8-9
Table 8.2	Partial Well Construction Details, Groundwater Monitoring Wells	8-11
Table 8.3	Summary of Bedrock RQD Value	8-13
Table 8.4	Summary of Single Well Response Testing	8-13
Table 8.5	Summary of Packer Testing	8-15
Table 8.6	Summary of Short-Term Pumping Test Data	8-18
Table 8.7	Summary of Manual Groundwater Levels and Groundwater Elevations for Exploration Boreholes	8-20
Table 8.8	Summary of Manual Groundwater Level and Groundwater Elevation Data for Monitoring Wells	8-23
Table 8.9	Summary of Automatic Groundwater Elevation Data for Monitoring Wells	8-24
Table 8.10	Vertical Hydraulic Gradients	8-28
Table 8.11	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Groundwater Resources	8-33
Table 8.12	Simulated Baseflow (Operation Phase)	8-40
Table 8.13	Modelled Groundwater Inflow Rates to the Open Pits (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase)	8-42
Table 8.14	Simulated Baseflow (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase)	8-42
Table 8.15	Predicted Mean Concentrations of Groundwater Seepage from Project Components (Operation Phase)	8-44
Table 8.16	Predicted Discharge Rates and Travel Times from Project Components to the Receiving Environment (Operation Phase)	8-47
Table 8.17	Predicted Mean Concentrations of Groundwater Seepage from Project Components (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase)	8-49
Table 8.18	Predicted Discharge Rates and Travel Times from Project Components to the Receiving Environment (Rehabilitation and Closure Phase)	8-52
Table 9.1	Surface Water Quantity Monitoring Locations	9-5
Table 9.2	Surface Water Quality Monitoring Locations	9-12

Table 9.3	Climate Normal (1991-2020) Temperature, Total Precipitation, and Snowfall for Combined Gander International Airport and Gander Airport Climate Stations	9-14
Table 9.4	Intensity-Duration-Frequency Curves for Gander International Airport Station	9-15
Table 9.5	30-Day precipitation and PMP, Gander International Airport	9-16
Table 9.6	Projected Temperature Changes at Gander International Airport Climate Station - SSP2-4.5, Projection Period 2021-2050, relative to 1971-2000 Climate Normal	9-17
Table 9.7	Projected IDF Curve at Gander International Airport Climate Station - SSP2-4.5, Projection Period 2021-2050 - Converted to Total Rainfall Depths	9-17
Table 9.8	Low and Environmental Flows for Various Watershed Areas	9-22
Table 9.9	Environmental Water Balance – Climate Normals Results	9-23
Table 9.10	Environmental Water Balance – Dry Year Results	9-23
Table 9.11	Environmental Water Balance – Wet Year Results	9-23
Table 9.12	Rating Curve Equations for Hydrometric Stations	9-24
Table 9.13	Summary of Water Quality Parameters in Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Stations	9-26
Table 9.14	Summary of General Chemistry in Local Water Quality Monitoring Stations	9-27
Table 9.15	Summary of Nutrients in Local Water Quality Monitoring Stations	9-28
Table 9.16	Summary of Total and Dissolved Metals in Local Water Quality Monitoring Stations	9-29
Table 9.17	Surface Water Quality Parameters of Potential Concern	9-32
Table 9.18	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Surface Water Resources	9-33
Table 9.19	Climate Normal Sedimentation Pond and FDP Outflows (m ³ /day)	9-43
Table 9.20	Pit Development Schedule	9-44
Table 9.21	Summary of Watershed Area, MAF, and Environmental Flow Changes through the Project Expansion Phases	9-46
Table 9.22	Summary of Flow Changes throughout Project Phases	9-49
Table 9.23	Predicted Mean Arsenic Concentrations of Groundwater Seepage from Project Components	9-53
Table 9.24	Predicted Discharge Rates and Travel Times from Project Components to the Receiving Environment	9-54
Table 9.25	Evaluation Point Flow Contributions from Non-Contact Areas during Operation/Active Closure	9-58
Table 9.26	Evaluation Point Flow Contribution from Non-Contact Areas during Post-Closure	9-58
Table 9.27	Effluent Flow Rates and Pit Overflows	9-58
Table 9.28	Summary of PoPCs Concentrations in Effluent, Pit Overflow and Receiving Waterbodies	9-60
Table 9.29	CORMIX Dilution Ratios in Initial Receivers (Regulatory Scenario)	9-61
Table 9.30	Concentrations of PoPC at the Evaluation Points and at Gander River under Regulatory Scenario	9-62
Table 9.31	CORMIX Dilution Ratios in Initial Receivers (Average Scenario)	9-63
Table 9.32	Concentration of PoPC at Evaluation Points for the Average Scenario	9-64
Table 9.33	Concentration of PoPC at Evaluation Points for the Post-Closure Scenario	9-65
Table 10.1	Summary of Habitat Characteristics for Streams	10-11
Table 10.2	Summary of Habitat Characteristics for Stream Crossings	10-14
Table 10.3	Summary of Pond Habitat Characteristics	10-16
Table 10.4	Summary of Catch Per Unit Effort for Qualitative Fish Sampling in Streams	10-20
Table 10.5	Summary of Summary of Catch and Descriptive Statistics for Salmonids Caught by Qualitative Electrofishing in Streams, 2023 to 2025	10-22
Table 10.6	Catch Per Unit Effort for Fish Sampling in Ponds and Impoundments	10-24
Table 10.7	Summary of Catch, Effort, and Descriptive Statistics for Fish Sampling in Ponds	10-26
Table 10.8	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Fish and Fish Habitat	10-28
Table 10.9	Summary of Anticipated Loss of Fish Habitat Quantity in the LAA as a Result of the Project	10-33
Table 11.1	Terrestrial Baseline Studies for the Project	11-5
Table 11.2	Land Cover Types within the Project Area, Local Assessment Area and Regional Assessment Area: Area and Percent of Area	11-9
Table 11.3	Wetland Classes, Forms, and Types Described during Additional Habitat Analyses	11-11

Table 11.4	Vascular Plant Species of Conservation Concern Observations	11-12
Table 11.5	Invasive Vascular Plant Species Occurring in Newfoundland and Labrador with Potential to Occur in the Project Area	11-14
Table 11.6	Avifauna Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern Documented During Baseline Surveys and Occurrence in the Project Area.....	11-16
Table 11.7	Other Wildlife Species at Risk Documented During Baseline Surveys and Occurrence in the Project Area	11-19
Table 11.8	Other Wildlife Species at Risk with Unconfirmed Status in the Project Area	11-20
Table 11.9	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for the Terrestrial Environment (including Species at Risk).....	11-24
Table 11.10	Land Cover Types within the Project Area and Local Assessment Area: Area and Percent of Area in the Regional Assessment Area	11-29
Table 12.1	Local Assessment Area Employment by Occupation, 2021	12-7
Table 12.2	Regional Assessment Area Employment by Occupation, 2021	12-7
Table 12.3	Household and Dwelling Characteristics in 2021	12-9
Table 12.4	Number of Private Apartment Units, Gander and Grand Falls-Windsor	12-11
Table 12.5	Online Rental Listings within a One-hour Commute of the Project (May 2025).....	12-11
Table 12.6	Health Characteristics, Newfoundland and Labrador and Central Health Region, 2023/2024	12-14
Table 12.7	Schools in the LAA, 2025-2026	12-14
Table 12.8	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Communities	12-16
Table 13.1	Distances to Communities within the Regional Assessment Area	13-6
Table 13.2	Protected Water Supply Areas within the Regional Assessment Area	13-9
Table 13.3	Wildlife Management Areas with Overlap in the Regional Assessment Area, Local Assessment Area, and Project Area	13-11
Table 13.4	Map Staked Claims in the Regional Assessment Area.....	13-17
Table 13.5	Quarry Permits / New Applications in the Regional Assessment Area	13-17
Table 13.6	Allocated Annual Cut for Forest Management Districts and Overlap with Assessment Boundaries.....	13-19
Table 13.7	Domestic Harvesting Areas within the Regional Assessment Area	13-19
Table 13.8	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Land and Resource Use	13-21
Table 14.1	Potential Effects and Effect Pathways for Historic Resources.....	14-18
Table 15.1	Projected Change in Average Temperature by the 2030s Based on SSP2-4.5	15-3
Table 15.2	Projected Change in the Frequency of Extreme Temperature Events by the 2030s Based on SSP2-4.5	15-3
Table 15.3	Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency Curve at Gander International Airport Climate Station - SSP2-4.5, Projection Period 2021-2050 - Converted to Total Rainfall Depths	15-3
Table 15.4	Potential Accidental Event Scenarios.....	15-8
Table 16.1	Summary of Environmental Effects	16-2
Table 17.1	Studies and Supporting Information Appended to the Environmental Registration	17-1
Table 17.2	Baseline Programs Completed or in Progress for the Project.....	17-2

List of Appendices

- Appendix 4.A Water Management Plan
- Appendix 4.B GHG Emissions Inventory
- Appendix 4.C BACT Study
- Appendix 4.D New Found Gold Policies
- Appendix 5.A Engagement Materials
- Appendix 5.B Letters of Support
- Appendix 7.A Air Quality Emissions Inventory
- Appendix 7.B Air Dispersion Modelling Report
- Appendix 8.A Groundwater Modelling Report
- Appendix 9.A Water Balance/Water Quality Model Report
- Appendix 9.B CORMIX Model Approach
- Appendix 11.A Plant Species List
- Appendix 12.A Evaluation of Human Health Effects
- Appendix 13.A Land and Resource Use Survey Report
- Appendix 13.B Qalipu Traditional Land and Resource Use Report

Acronyms / Abbreviations

%HA	percentage of highly annoyed
°C	degrees Celsius
µg/L	micrograms per litre
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic metre
µS/cm	microsiemens per centimetre
2SLGBTQQIA+	Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders
AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AAQM	Ambient Air Quality Monitoring
ABA	Acid Base Accounting
AC CDC	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
AFZ	Appleton Fault Zone
AMD	Amygdular Mafic to Intermediate Dykes
ANFO	Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AQMS	Air Quality Management System
ARU	Autonomous Recording Unit
ATV	All-terrain Vehicle
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BBMA	Black Bear Management Area
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BIMP	Blast Management Plan
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BP	Before Present
Bq/L	becquerels per litre
BSGI	Black Siltstone/Greywacke
BSIL	Black Siltstone
ca.	circa
CAAQS	Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards
CALMET	diagnostic meteorological model within the CALPUFF system
CALPUFF	non-steady state Gaussian puff air dispersion model

CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
cd	candela
CIE	Commission International de L'Éclairage (International Commission on Illumination)
CIL	Carbon-in-Leach
cm	centimetre
CMHC	Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
CMT	Conglomerate
CN	Curve Number
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPC	Community Participation Committee
CPUE	catch per unit effort
CRSB	Central Regional Service Board
CSI	Crime Severity Index
CSQG ISQG	Canadian Sediment Quality Guideline Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines
CSQG PEL	Canadian Sediment Quality Guideline Probable Effects Limit
CWQG-FAL	Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life
dB	decibels
dBA	a-weighted decibels
DD	decimal degrees
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOC	Dissolved Organic Carbon
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECP	Environmental Contingency Plan
eDNA	Environmental DNA
EEM	Environmental Effects Monitoring

EMS	Environmental Management System
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
FDC	Flow Duration Curve
FDP	Final Discharge Point
FMD	Forest Management District
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
g	grams
g/L	grams per litre
g/t	grams per tonne
GAB	Gabbro
GCDWQ	Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEDP	Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan
GEMTEC	GEMTEC Consulting Engineers and Scientists Limited
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLT	Gander Lake Tributary
GNL	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
GPDM	Guideline for Plume Dispersion Modelling
ha	hectare
HADD	Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction
HCT	Humidity Cell Testing
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
HEC-HMS	Hydrologic Engineering Center Hydrologic Modelling System
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
HRA	Historic Resources Act (1985)
HRIA	Historic Resources Impact Assessment
HROA	Historic Resources Overview Assessment
HSE IMS	Health, Safety and Environment Integrated Management System
Hz	hertz
ICP-MS	Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry
IDF	intensity-duration-frequency
I-TEQ	international toxicity equivalent quotient

JBPFZ	Joe Batt's Pond Fault Zone
kg	kilogram
km	kilometre
km ²	square kilometre
koz	kilo-ounces
KP	Knight Piésold Ltd.
kt	kilotonnes
kV	kilovolts
kVA	kilovolt-amperes
L/min	litres per minute
LAA	Local Assessment Area
Ld	daytime equivalent sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent sound pressure level
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
Ln	nighttime equivalent sound level
LoM	Life-of-Mine
LRU	Land and Resource Use
m	metre
m/s	metres per second
m ²	square metres
m ² /s	square metres per second
m ³	cubic metres
m ³ /day	cubic metres per day
m ³ /month	cubic metres per month
m ³ /s	cubic metres per second
MAA	Multiple Accounts Analysis
MAF	Mean Annual Flow
mag/arcsec ²	magnitudes per square arcsecond
masl	metres above sea level
mbgs	metres below ground surface
mbtoc	metres below top of casing
MDMER	Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per litre

Miawpukek	Miawpukek First Nation
ML/ARD	Metal Leaching / Acid Rock Drainage
mm	millimetre
mm/hr	millimetres per hour
mm/s	millimetres per second
mm/year	millimetres per year
Mm ³	cubic megametres
MMA	Moose Management Area
MMBCG	Mineralized Material Below Cut-off Grade
MMF	Mean Monthly Flow
MRZ	Moose Reduction Zone
Mt	million tonnes
MWMF	Mine Waste Management Facility
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
NAD83 CSRS	North American Datum 1983 Canadian Spatial Reference System
NAG	Net Acid Generation
NALCO	Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation
NAPS	National Air Pollutant Surveillance Program
NBBA	Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas
New Found Gold	New Found Gold Corp.
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NL AQS	Newfoundland and Labrador Air Quality Standards
NL EPA	Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Protection Act
NL ESA	Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act
NLDECCC	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change
NLDEM	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Energy and Mines
NLDFAL	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
NLDMAE	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
NLDTCAR	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
NLDTI	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

NLOA	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOC	National Occupational Classification
non-PAG	Non-Potentially Acid Generating
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NP	Neutralization Potential
NPR	Neutralization Potential Ratio
NPRI	National Pollutant Release Inventory
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
O ₃	Ozone
OVB	Overburden
PAG	potentially acid generating
PAO	Provincial Archaeology Office
PFCs	Perfluorocarbons
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PMP	Probable Maximum Precipitation
PoPC	Parameters of Potential Concern
POR	Point of Reception
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
PPWSA	Public Protected Water Supply Area
Qalipu	Qalipu First Nation
QEMSCAN	Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning Electron Microscopy
QP	Qualified Professional
QWN	Queensway North
QWS	Queensway South
RAA	Regional Assessment Area
RBCA	Risk Based Corrective Action
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RCP	Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

RDL	Reporting Detection Limit
RoM	Run-of-Mine
RoW	Right-of-Way
RQD	Rock Quality Designation
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SDG	Greywacke
SF ₆	Sulphur Hexafluoride
SFE	Shake Flask Extraction
SIL	Siltstone
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
SOCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SPLP	Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure
SSP	Shared Socioeconomic Pathway
Stantec	Stantec Consulting Ltd.
t	tonne
T’Railway	T’Railway Provincial Park
TCH	Trans-Canada Highway
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
the Project	Queensway Gold Project
the Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
the T’Railway	T’Railway Provincial Park
TIC	Total Inorganic Carbon
TMF	Tailings Management Facility
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TP	Total Phosphorus
tpd	tonnes per day
TPM	Total Particulate Matter
TSP	Total Suspended Particulate Matter
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TUS	Traditional Use Study
ULR	upward light ratio
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UTV	Utility Task Vehicle
VC	Valued Component
VGM	Valentine Gold Mine
WAD	Weak Acid Dissociable
WaMP	Water Management Plan
WMO	World Metrological Organization
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WRMD	Water Resources Management Division
WRSF	Waste Rock Storage Facility
WSC	Water Survey of Canada
wt.%	weight percent
YOY	Young of Year

1 Introduction

1.1 Name of Undertaking

Queensway Gold Project (the Project)

1.2 Overview of the Undertaking

New Found Gold is proposing the Queensway Gold Project (the Project), a new open pit gold mine at the Queensway North (QWN) Property. It is situated east of the Town of Appleton, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) and approximately 6.3 kilometres west of the Town of Gander's municipal boundary (Figure 1.1).

The Project will involve the extraction of gold-rich mineralized ore from the Project Area with four open pits, a waste rock and overburden storage facility, a run-of-mine pad containing multiple ore stockpiles, a modular crushing and sorting plant, and associated operational facilities including water management facilities, office, and maintenance shops (Figure 1.2). A more detailed site layout is provided in Section 4, Figure 4.6. The on-site crushing and sorting plant will be designed to produce 700 tonnes per day (tpd) of pre-concentrated product feed. Ore will be transported and processed at the existing, permitted Pine Cove processing facility. This pre-concentration process improves overall processing efficiency, reduces the number of trucks on provincial highways and roads, and reduces waste, as less material will be processed at the mill.

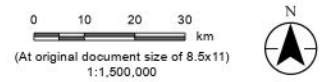
The Project has a Life of Mine plan for 7 years of operations, based on current production rates and gold price estimates. Progressive rehabilitation at the Queensway site will occur during mining, with final rehabilitation and closure after operation's end. Post-closure monitoring will follow rehabilitation and closure.

This Environmental Registration serves to initiate the environmental assessment (EA) process for the Project, as per the NL *Environmental Protection Act* (NL EPA).

\\s0151-PPFSS01\work_group\121418510\active\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2026-04-27 By: niwhite



Legend
★ Project Location



Project Location
 North Gander Lake
 Newfoundland and Labrador

Prepared by NW on 2025-07-28
 QR by PM on 2026-04-14
 TR by EW on 2025-08-15

Client/Project 121418510_103a

New Found Gold Corp.
Queensway Gold Project

Figure No. **1.1**
 Title **Project Location**

Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
2. Data Sources: Stantec
3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; NRCan CanVec; Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

\\ca0151-ppf501\work_group\1214\active\1214\1759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS_Pro\1214_18510_NewfoundGold\1214_18510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

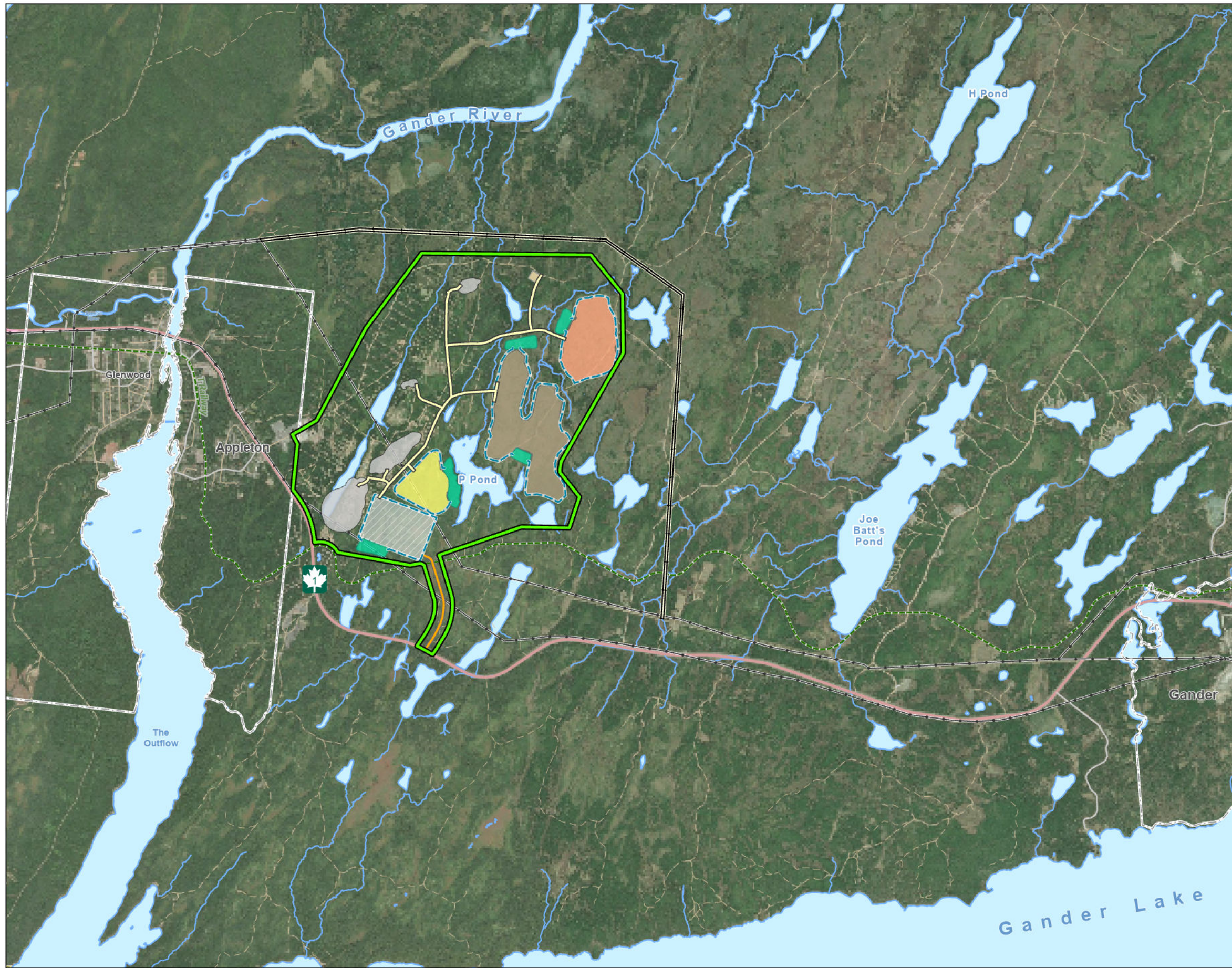
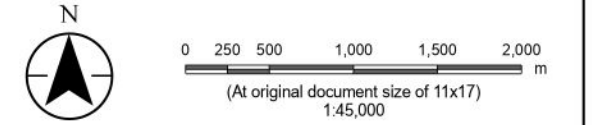


Figure No.
1.2

Title
**Queensway Gold Project
Overall Site Layout**

Client/Project
New Found Gold Corp.
Queensway Gold Project 121418510_116c

Project Location
North Gander Lake
Newfoundland and Labrador Prepared by NW on 2025-10-01
QR by PM on 2028-04-14
TR by KF on 2025-10-01



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Project Area | Existing Infrastructure |
| Proposed Project Layout | Transmission Line |
| Haul Road | Proposed |
| Access Road | Transmission Line (Re-routing) |
| Ditch | Highway |
| Sedimentation Pond | Collector |
| Ore Stockpile | Local / Street |
| Overburden Storage Facility | Ramp |
| Waste Rock Storage Facility | Resource Road / Trail |
| Open Pit | NL T'Railway Provincial Park |
| Other Mine Features | Wetlands and Waterways |
| Industrial Terrace | Watercourse |
| | Waterbody |
| | Administrative Areas |
| | Municipal Boundaries |



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change; Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service; Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada.
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping; Vantor, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS



2 Proponent Information

New Found Gold Corp. (“New Found Gold” or the “Company”) is the proponent for the Project. It is a publicly traded company, incorporated in 2016, with its headquarters in Vancouver, British Columbia and an office in Gander, NL. As 100% owner, New Found Gold will be responsible for the construction and operation of the Project.

The QWN Property includes 42 mineral licences and 1,127 claims. Extensive exploration of the QWN Property has been accomplished by multiple operators and prospectors, spanning over four decades, from the 1980s through to early 2024. The company was formerly known as the Palisade Resources Corps. and changed its name to New Found Gold in June 2017. New Found Gold is publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under “NFG” and on the New York Stock Exchange under “NFGC.” Additional information about the company can be found on its corporate website: <https://newfoundgold.ca/>

The address and contact information for the proponent is:

Name of Corporate Body	New Found Gold Corporation
Corporate Address	300 Garrett Drive Gander, NL A1V 1W8
Chief Executive Officer	Keith Boyle, B.Sc., MBA
Principal Contact Person for the Purpose of the Environmental Assessment	Dr. Jared Saunders, Ph.D., CRSP, EP VP Sustainability Email: comments@newfoundgold.ca

New Found Gold and its management team demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and engagement with local communities, conducting construction and operational activities in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The protection of the environment is one of the core values at New Found Gold. New Found Gold is committed to environmental stewardship by reducing their footprint through limiting impacted areas and rehabilitating after work is complete, meeting or exceeding regulatory compliance, managing waste responsibly, and monitoring the environment to better understand and mitigate their potential impacts. New Found Gold demonstrates a strong commitment to employee health and safety, maintaining a comprehensive health and safety management system and holding COR® certification.

The Project will have both direct and indirect employment and economic benefits. New Found Gold is committed to prioritizing local training, employment, and servicing opportunities. The company will also update its Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan to promote inclusive workforce participation. New Found Gold is committed to the local community and provides financial and volunteer support for events in Appleton, Glenwood, Gander, and surrounding areas.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement and social responsibility, New Found Gold has also commenced early and broad social engagement efforts. To date, these initiatives have garnered positive feedback from stakeholders, reflecting an encouraging level of community support for the Project. New Found Gold has conducted public open houses in the Towns of Appleton and Gander. It has also implemented a publicly available online land and resource use survey to better understand how the region is currently being used and potential concerns and/or questions about the Project. Feedback obtained from these engagement efforts is being used to inform Project design and mitigation measures. Throughout the regulatory approval process and the life of the mine, New Found Gold is committed to continued engagement with regulators, stakeholders, Indigenous people, and the public. Additional details on engagement are provided in Section 5.

3 Project Purpose and Regulatory Framework

3.1 Purpose / Rationale / Need for Undertaking

The Project represents a strategic transition from exploration to full-scale mining operations, building on several years of exploration work at the QWN Property. The Project is economically and operationally viable and will generate revenue to support ongoing exploration and potential future development. The Project is designed to be self-sustaining, with ore processed off-site at an existing, permitted facility, for approximately 7 years.

The rationale for the Project is grounded in New Found Gold's broader development strategy. By initiating production at a manageable scale, the company can begin generating income while continuing to assess the feasibility of future expansion. This approach allows New Found Gold to optimize its investment, reduce initial environmental and operational risks, and maintain flexibility in response to evolving geological data and market conditions. Continued exploration during operation of the 700 tpd mine will support informed and strategic decision-making regarding potential expansion, which would be subject to additional EA and permitting.

The development of the Project is driven by the need to unlock valuable mineral resources, support regional economic growth, and strengthen Canada's and NL's position in the global mining sector. This initiative aligns with national and provincial priorities for mineral development and contributes to bridging the gap between supply and demand for gold.

In addition to supporting industry needs, the Project will bring meaningful socio-economic benefits to rural communities through job creation, infrastructure investment, and long-term opportunities for local businesses and workers. The Project is expected to generate substantial economic benefits, including an estimated 207 full-time equivalent positions during construction and an estimated peak of 239 full-time equivalent positions during operation. New Found Gold will prioritize local hiring, training, and service procurement, and will work collaboratively with the Towns of Appleton, Glenwood and Gander to support community interests. The company will also update its Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan to promote inclusive workforce participation. Additional economic activity will be supported through the use of an existing processing facility on the Island, which will support further employment and investment in the mining industry.

3.2 Regulatory Framework

The Project is subject to provincial EA requirements under the NL EPA and associated *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. The Project is captured under section 33(2) of the Regulations which requires that an Environmental Registration be submitted to the NL EA Division.

33(2) An undertaking that will be engaged in the mining, beneficiating and preparing of a mineral as defined in the Mineral Act whether or not these operations are to be performed in conjunction with a mine or at mills that will be operated separately shall be registered.

This Environmental Registration has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment – A Guide to the Process (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change [NLDECCC] 2025). Table 3.1 is a table of concordance with Appendix 1 of the Guide.

Table 3.1 Concordance with Requirements for an Environmental Registration

Environmental Registration Requirement	Reference Location
Name of Undertaking	Section 1.1
Proponent Information	Section 2
The Undertaking	Section 1.2
Name of the Undertaking	Section 1.1
Purpose / Rationale / Need for the Undertaking	Section 3.1
Description of the Undertaking (Project Description), including:	Section 4
Geographic Location	Section 4.1
Physical Features, including biological environment	Section 4.1.2, Sections 7-14
Construction phase activities, including:	Section 4.5.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximate total construction period and proposed date of first physical construction related activity on site 	Section 4.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential sources of pollutants during the construction period(s) including airborne emissions, liquid effluents and solid waste materials 	Section 4.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential causes of resource conflicts and measures to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects on receptors and resource/land use conflicts 	Sections 7-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and Indigenous consultation that was conducted to address construction concerns 	Section 5
Operation / maintenance phase activities, including:	Section 4.5.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated period of operation, if not a permanent facility 	Section 4.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential sources of pollutants during the operations period including airborne emissions, liquid effluents and solid waste materials 	Section 4.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential causes of resource conflicts and measures to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects on receptors and resource/land use conflicts 	Sections 7-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and Indigenous consultation that was conducted to address operation concerns 	Section 5
Occupations for construction and operation phases; identify how employment equity will be addressed relative to age and gender.	Section 4.8
Alternative means to carrying out the project	Section 4.10

Table 3.1 Concordance with Requirements for an Environmental Registration

Environmental Registration Requirement	Reference Location
Project related documents	Section 17
Approval of the Undertaking (i.e., required permits, approvals that the Project may require)	Section 3.2
Schedule	Section 4.3
Capital Cost and Funding (source of Project funding)	Section 18

The Project does not include activities requiring federal assessment as listed in the *Physical Activities Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

In addition to provincial release from the EA process, the Project is subject to other federal and provincial legislation (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Federal and Provincial Legislation that Could Apply to the Project

Federal Legislation	Provincial Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fisheries Act</i> • <i>Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations (MDMER)</i> • <i>Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery Regulations</i> • <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</i> • <i>Species at Risk Act (SARA)</i> • <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> • <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Endangered Species Act (NL ESA)</i> • <i>Environmental Protection Act (NL EPA)</i> • <i>Air Pollution Control Regulations, 2022</i> • <i>Forestry Act</i> • <i>Historic Resources Act (1985)</i> • <i>Lands Act</i> • <i>Management of Greenhouse Gases Act</i> • <i>Mineral Act, 1999</i> • <i>Mining Act, 1999</i> • <i>Water Resources Act</i> • <i>Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations</i> • <i>Wild Life Act and Regulations</i> • <i>Town of Appleton Development Regulations [Municipal]</i>

Upon release / approval from the provincial EA process, the Project will require approvals, authorizations, and permits prior to initiation of construction. A preliminary list of potential requirements is included in Table 3.3. The specific permits and approvals required will depend on the final mine development plan. Each permit or approval is applied for separately with relevant information included in the applications. Although permits can only be issued after a project is released from the EA process(es), some long-lead permits can be discussed with regulators and progressed prior to release from the EA processes.

As the Project overlaps with the Town of Appleton's Land Use Planning Area, specifically the Industrial Park Zone and Resource Zone outlined in the 2017-2027 Municipal Plan and associated Development Regulations, municipal permits are anticipated. Development of land carried out within the Planning Area must have a permit issued by Town of Appleton Council in accordance with these Regulations.

Table 3.3 Potential Approvals, Authorizations, And Permits – for Mine Development at The Queensway Property

Permit / Approval	Agency	
Provincial		
Release from EA Process	NLDECCC, EA Division	
Approval of Environmental Protection Plan		
Approval of Best Available Control Technologies Plan (will only be required if projected greenhouse gas emissions from the Project surpass provincial emissions threshold)	NLDECCC, Climate Change Branch	
Certificate of Approval for construction and operation (Industrial Processing Works)	NLDECCC, Pollution Prevention Division	
Monitoring Plan for Certificate of Approval		
Certificate of Approval for Generators		
Approval of Environmental Contingency Plan / Emergency Spill Response		
Permit to Construct a Non-Domestic Well	NLDECCC, Water Resources Management Division	
Approval to Alter a Body of Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert installation • Fording / Bridge • Pipe Crossing / Water Intake • Stream modification or diversion • Other works within 15 metres of a body of water 		
Water Use Licence (for non-domestic uses with an existing, new, or planned water use from any water source)		
Permit to Construct a Potable Water System		
Permit to Develop in a Public Protected Water Supply Area (PPWSA) / Wellhead PPWSA		
Permit to Occupy Crown Land		Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (NLDFAL)
Permit to Control Nuisance Animals		
NL ESA Section 19 Economic Activity Permit	NLDFAL, Wildlife Division	
Operating Permit to Carry out an Industrial Operation During Forest Fire Season on Crown Land	NLDFAL, Forestry Division	
Permit to Cut Crown Timber		
Development Plan	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Energy and Mines (NLDEM)	
Rehabilitation and Closure Plan		
Financial Assurance		
Quarry Development Permit	NLDEM - Mineral Lands Division	

Table 3.3 Potential Approvals, Authorizations, And Permits – for Mine Development at The Queensway Property

Permit / Approval	Agency
Blasters Safety Certificate	Government Services
Approval for Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products	
Fuel Tank Registration	
Approval for Used Oil Storage Tank System (Oil Water Separator)	
Certificate of Approval for a Waste Management System	
Certificate of Approval for a Sewage / Septic System	
Application to Develop Land for Septic	
Protected Roads, Permit for Development	
National Building Code – Fire, Life Safety, and Building Safety	
Buildings Accessibility Registration and Permit	
Food Establishment Licence	
Temporary Vehicular Access Permit, T’Railway Provincial Park	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (NLDTCAR), Parks NL
Federal	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Request for Review and Letter of Advice, and/or Fisheries Act Authorization for Works which result in the death of fish and/or harmful alteration, disruption and destruction of fish habitat	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Schedule 2 of MDMER under Section 36(3) of the Fisheries Act ¹	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Initiate MDMER process, including notification, identification of final discharge point(s), effluent monitoring, and environmental effects monitoring	
Approval of MDMER Emergency Response Plan	
Licence for Explosives Magazine	Natural Resources Canada
Transportation of Dangerous Goods	Transport Canada
Approval to Interfere with Navigation	
Municipal	
Development Permits	Town of Appleton
Note:	
¹ The Project has been designed to avoid placement of mine waste in waterbodies frequented by fish; therefore, an amendment to Schedule 2 of MDMER is not expected to be required.	

3.3 References

NLDECCC (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change). 2025. Environmental Assessment – A Guide to the Process. Available at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccc/env-assessment/>

4 Project Description

The Project involves the construction, operation, and decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of an open pit gold mine. Project design is an iterative process, with refinements made throughout the environmental assessment (EA) process, resulting in the designs and configurations presented in this Environmental Registration. As part of the normal engineering progression for mining projects, and in consideration of input from regulators, Indigenous groups and stakeholders, Project design optimizations may occur as detailed design proceeds. As part of the planning phase for the Project, aspects of the Project concept and engineering design have also been refined and adapted to reduce environmental and social effects. The following design considerations have been made to the Project:

- Stockpiles have been located at a distance away from the Town of Appleton, the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) and the T’Railway Provincial Park (the T’Railway)
- Primary mine infrastructure, including the pits, stockpiles, waste rock storage facility (WRSF), and crushing and sorting plant, is located within a single sub-watershed (Herman’s Pond) that drains to the Gander River (downstream of Gander Lake) and avoids the Joe Batt’s Pond watershed
- Within the industrial terrace, the crusher has been located at a distance from the T’Railway to reduce sensory disturbances (i.e., noise and dust emissions) to recreational users along the T’Railway
- Site water management will discharge downstream of Gander Lake within the Gander River watershed because of water management infrastructure discharging outside the Gander Lake Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA)
- Site infrastructure is located east of the open pits to reduce noise and other impacts on the Town of Appleton
- Placement of waste rock is being purposely designed to avoid overprinting waters frequented by fish
- New Found Gold will work towards returning the Project site to as close to pre-Project conditions as practical, with due consideration to the aesthetics that existed prior to mining
- A pit development schedule that enhances prudent resource management, based on feedback from regulators

4.1 Geographical Location

The Project is located in the Northcentral sub-region of the Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion (Meades 1990), which extends from the Town of Clarenville in the east to the Town of Deer Lake in the west (Figure 1.1). It is adjacent to, and slightly overlapping (4,980 square metres [m²]), the municipal boundary of the Town of Appleton and is situated approximately 6.3 kilometres (km) west of the Town of Gander’s municipal boundary and 1.5 km east of the Town of Glenwood’s municipal boundary, placing it in close proximity to both Appleton and Glenwood. Distances from the Project Area boundary and the proposed mining operations to the municipalities of Gander, Appleton, and Glenwood are provided in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Distances to Communities

Location	Distance to Gander (km)	Distance to Appleton (km)	Distance to Glenwood (km)
Straight Line Distance from Centre of Municipality to Proposed Mining Operations	14.79 ^a	0.80	2.14
Straight Line Distance from Centre of Municipality to Nearest Project Area Boundary	14.70	0.45	1.79
Driving Distance from Centre of Municipality to Proposed Site Access Road	17.89 ^b	3.87	6.07
Distance from Municipal Boundary to Nearest Project Area Boundary	6.24	0	1.49

Notes:

^a 14.79 km - straight distance from Gander centre to waste rock storage facility^b 17.89 km - driving distance from Gander centre to proposed access road

The closest residence in the Town of Appleton is located approximately 240 metres (m) from the Project Area and approximately 610 m from the closest Project component (Figure 1.2). There is a cabin located within the Project Area without an associated grant or lease in the land use atlas, and two cabins with associated land grants located immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The closest of these two seasonal dwellings is located approximately 55 m from the Project Area and approximately 370 m from the closest Project component. New Found Gold has and will continue to engage these cabin owners about their occupancy, future use of the cabins, and possible mitigation steps, such as relocation or purchasing of the properties. In addition, as detailed Project design progresses, New Found Gold will maintain appropriate distances between Project activities and residences and seasonal dwellings to maintain compliance with applicable air quality and noise guidelines and regulations.

The Project can be accessed by commercial flights through the Gander International Airport and by vehicle via the TCH, Route 1 which passes through the Queensway North (QWN) claim area (known as the QWN block; Figure 4.1). Within the Project Area, most of the site is accessible via gravel access roads, including the Appleton Fault Zone (AFZ) road, the H Pond Road to areas along the Joe Batt's Pond Fault Zone (JBPFZ), and the Joe Batt's Pond Road on the eastern margin of QWN in the cottage area. Many all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails and winter roads provide excellent access for heavy equipment when required.

The Project Area can also be accessed by helicopter from the Newfoundland Helicopters base in the Town of Appleton and via Gander International Airport.

The nearest seaports are north of the TCH at the towns of Lewisporte and Botwood, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), which are approximately 40 and 70 km, respectively, by road from the Town of Appleton, NL (Figure 1.1). Both port locations have excellent harbour facilities and capabilities.

4.1.1 Land Tenure

Figure 4.1 illustrates New Found Gold's current mineral licences. The Queensway Property (the Property) comprises 144 mineral licences totaling 8,767 claims, with each claim covering 25 hectares (ha) (500 m × 500 m), for a total area of approximately 219,175 ha (2,192 square kilometres [km²]). The licences can be separated spatially into groups, or blocks, based on their contiguous groupings. The blocks have no specific administrative or legal significance but are helpful in presenting and explaining a variety of exploration activities over a large area.

The Project is situated within the QWN block, located north of Gander Lake (Figure 4.1). The QWN block currently consists of 69 contiguous licenses containing a total of 2,599 claims for an area of 64,975 ha or 649.75 km². The northern portion of the block is transected by the TCH, with the western edge of the Project near the Town of Appleton and the eastern edge approximately 6.3 km west of the Town of Gander's municipal boundary. The approximate centre of the Project is UTM Zone 21N, NAD83 CSRS: 659,000 m Easting, 5,428,000 m Northing.

The Project Area overlaps with existing Crown lands titles, and the Project's interaction with Crown lands and the legislative and regulatory requirements under the *Lands Act* are addressed in Section 13 (Land and Resource Use).

4.1.2 Environmental Setting

The following sections provide an overview of the physical, biological, and socio-economic environments for the Project. For the past several years, New Found Gold has engaged consultants to conduct comprehensive baseline field programs throughout the QWN block, including surveys for noise, light, ground and surface water, geochemistry, fish and fish habitat, vegetation, birds, bats and other wildlife, and historic resources. Many of these studies have been, and continue to be, supported by consultation with the appropriate regulators, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the NL Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (NLDFAL) - Wildlife Division.

The existing environment is described for the Project Area (Figure 4.2). The Project Area is defined as the immediate area in which Project activities and components occur. The Project Area is the anticipated area of direct physical disturbance associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of the Project.

4.1.2.1 Geology and Mineralization

The Project is situated in the northeastern Canadian portion of the Appalachian Orogen, which extends from Scandinavia in the north to Georgia, USA in the south. The geology of the Project Area is well understood and constitutes a poly-deformed fold and thrust belt that overprints Cambrian continental shelf rocks, Ordovician ophiolitic and marine carbonate/siliciclastic rocks, Silurian shallow marine/terrestrial sequences, and Silurian magmatic rocks. The AFZ and JBPFZ are major structures that transect the Queensway Property and are spatially associated with orogenic epizonal gold mineralization.

\\ca0151-ppfss01\work_group\1214\active\12141759603_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2026-04-28 By: mwhite

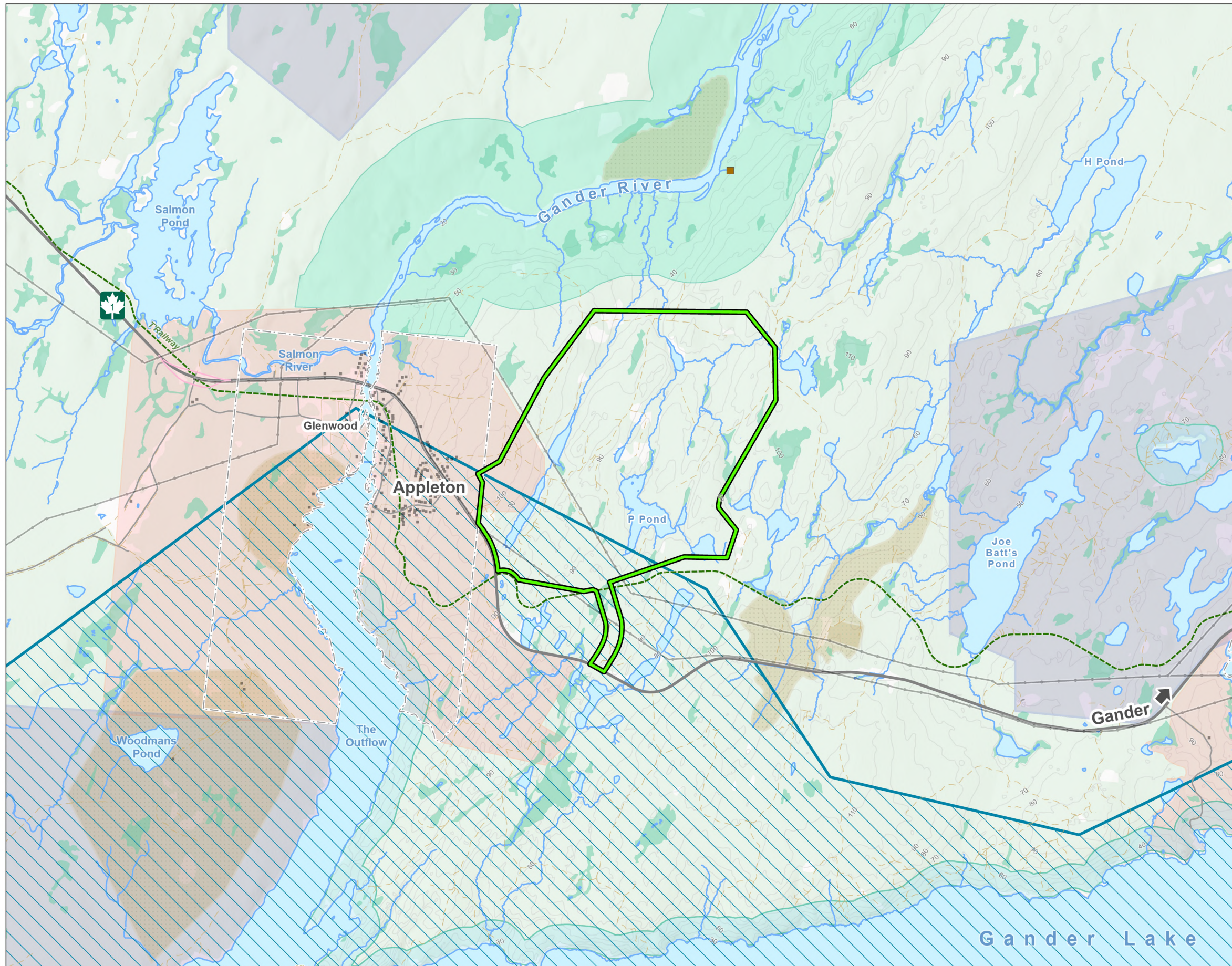
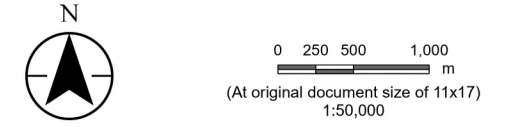
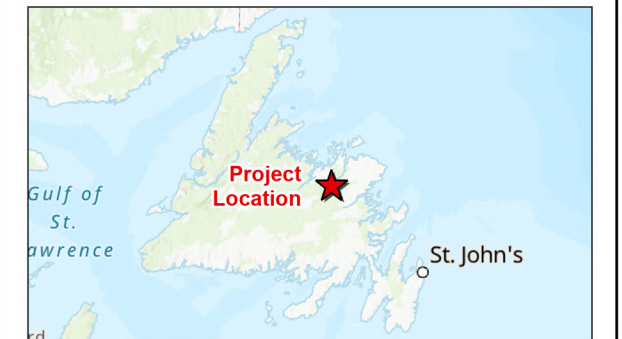


Figure No. **4.2**
Project Area and Existing Environment

Client/Project 121418510_116
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project
 Project Location North Gander Lake Newfoundland and Labrador
 Prepared by NW on 2025-09-12
 QR by PM on 2026-04-14
 TR by TO on 2025-09-12



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Project Area | Wetlands and Waterways |
| SocioEconomic / Built Infrastructure | Watercourse |
| Building | Waterbody |
| Outfitter Lodge | Protected Surfacewater Boundary |
| Transmission Line | Wetland (NLDFAL) |
| Highway | Land Use |
| Collector | Agriculture |
| Local / Street | Cottage Planning Area |
| Ramp | Crown Reserve (Gander Lake) |
| Resource Road / Trail | Gander River Management Area |
| NL T'Railway Provincial Park | Municipal Planning Area |
| | Other Features |
| | Contour (10 m) |
| | Municipal Boundaries |



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada; NRCan CanVec.
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping.



Gold mineralization at the Queensway Property has been identified in several gold zones in both the QWN and Queensway South (QWS) blocks. In general, these gold zones are interpreted to be indicative of an orogenic epizonal gold system, and are characterized by:

- Strong gold mineralization in quartz-carbonate veins being associated with complex networks of brittle fault zones which are commonly discordant to the regional northeast trending foliation and stratigraphy. Mineralization typically occurs as coarse grains of free visible gold in multiphase quartz-carbonate veins that are brecciated, massive-vuggy, laminated, or that have a closely spaced stockwork texture.
- A gold association with arsenic-bearing minerals, in addition to antimony and tungsten, including arsenopyrite and boulangerite.
- An alteration halo around most of the gold-rich veins that is associated with the changes in the mineralogy of white micas.

4.1.2.2 Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage

4.1.2.2.1 Overview

This section summarizes the metal leaching (ML) and acid rock drainage (ARD) characterization of materials that will be exposed or excavated at the Project based on results of the ongoing ML/ARD testing program. The samples included in the ML/ARD testing program were selected to be compositionally representative of the materials to be mined, including waste rock, overburden, and mineralized material below cut-off grade (MMBCG). The MMBCG represents mineralized rock that will be stockpiled at the ore stockpile for potential future processing.

The results presented are based on the main lithological wireframes from New Found Gold's geological model, rather than the individual lithologies logged in drill core by core logging geologists. The wireframes were developed at a practical resolution and are intended to represent larger packages of rock that share common characteristics, such as colour, texture, and geochemical properties. Consequently, lithological wireframes categorized as a particular lithology may include samples classified as other lithologies based on drill core logs.

The model wireframes evaluated in this assessment are summarized in Table 4.2. To simplify the presentation and interpretation of results, wireframes representing variations of the same lithology have been combined. Results are also presented for MMBCG, which is not represented by a dedicated model wireframe. Instead, MMBCG comprises samples from other model wireframes with gold grades between 0.3 grams per tonne (g/t) and 1.6 g/t, consistent with the cut-off grades defined in the NI 43-101 technical report for the Queensway Gold Project filed on September 2, 2025.

Generally, the samples assessed to date are representative of the relative abundance of each material type, based on estimated tonnages (Table 4.2). However, overburden and MMBCG are underrepresented, and higher-grade mineralized material (i.e., mid-grade ore and high-grade ore) has not yet been characterized. Additional sampling and testing to address these data gaps are ongoing.

Table 4.2 Material Types Assessed in the Ongoing ML/ARD Testing Program

Material Classification	Wireframe/Material Type Code	Description	Estimated Tonnage Based on Current Mine Plan ^a	Suggested Initial Sample Frequency (MEND 2009) ^b	Samples Tested to Date ^c
Waste rock	AMD	Amygdular mafic to intermediate dykes	Minor unit	-	6
	BSGI	Interbedded black siltstone and greywacke	47,117	6	25
	BSIL	Black siltstone	277,878	14	19
	CMT	Conglomerate	Minor unit	-	1
	GAB	Gabbro	Minor unit	-	5
	SDG ^d	Greywacke	4,804,752	56	59
	SIL ^e	Siltstone	51,238,191	173	220
Overburden	OVB	Overburden	4,446,992	54	39
Mineralized material	MMBCG ^f	Mineralized material below cut-off grade	4,889,332	56	13

Notes:

^a "Minor unit" indicates that the model wireframe occurs in a small volume and does not have an estimated tonnage in the current mine plan.

^b Suggested initial sample frequencies are calculated from values provided in Table 8-2 in MEND (2009).

^c Sample counts reflect samples analyzed by Acid Base Accounting (ABA; see Section 4.1.2.2.2).

^d Includes the following greywacke wireframes: SDG, SDG_Cr, and SDG_IB.

^e Includes the following siltstone wireframes: SIL, SILCR, SILNI, SIL_CuRich, and SIL_GreyGreen. Unclassified material within the geological model is also assumed to be siltstone.

^f Mineralized material below cut-off grade (MMBCG) is not a model wireframe. Instead, samples from other model wireframes with gold grades greater than 0.3 g/t were classified as MMBCG.

4.1.2.2.2 Testing Methods

The ongoing ML/ARD testing program has been completed in phases, following best practice guidance outlined in MEND (2009).

The program includes both static and kinetic geochemical tests designed to assess the ARD potential, neutralization capacity, and leaching behaviour of the test materials. The number and types of tests currently completed for each material type are summarized in Table 4.3.

The tests include the following:

Acid Base Accounting (ABA): Estimates ARD potential based on the neutralization potential ratio (NPR), defined as the ratio of Modified Sobek neutralization potential (NP, measured by titration) to acid potential (AP, calculated from total sulphur). Samples were classified based on NPR as follows:

- $\text{NPR} \leq 1$: potentially acid generating (PAG)
- $1 < \text{NPR} < 2$: uncertain acid generation potential
- $\text{NPR} \geq 2$: non-potentially acid generating (non-PAG)

Net Acid Generation (NAG): Evaluates net acidity produced during accelerated sulphide oxidation by exposing the samples to a strong oxidizing agent (hydrogen peroxide). Samples were classified based on NAG pH as follows:

- $\text{NAG pH} < 4.5$: PAG
- $\text{NAG pH} \geq 4.5$: non-PAG

Solid-phase elemental analysis: Determines near-total elemental concentrations to characterize material composition and identify constituents of potential concern. The elemental compositions of samples in this assessment were determined using a 3-acid digestion and Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).

Short-term leach testing: Assesses readily soluble constituents that may influence initial leachate chemistry. Short-term leach tests involve combining a crushed sample with deionized water or other solvents at a high liquid-to-solid ratio, physically mixing the sample for a specific amount of time (e.g., 24 hours), and then measuring concentrations in the resulting leachate. Samples from the first phase of geochemical testing were analyzed using the Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP), while Shake Flask Extraction (SFE) tests were used for subsequent phases.

Short-term leach testing results were compared to applicable water quality guidelines to identify parameters with moderate and high leaching potential, which are defined as follows:

- Moderate leaching potential: Leachate concentrations exceed Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life* (CWQG-FAL; CCME 2025).
- High leaching potential: Leachate concentrations exceed applicable monthly mean concentrations from Schedule 4 Table 1 of the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* (MDMER)

It is noted that comparisons of short-term leach testing results to water quality guidelines are intended for screening purposes only. Short-term leach tests are considered conservative indicators of leaching potential because the tests use fine particle sizes, physical agitation, and high liquid-to-solid ratios that enhance constituent mobilization relative to field conditions. As a result, water quality guideline exceedances observed in leachate do not necessarily indicate that water in contact with exposed mine materials would exceed these guidelines, nor do they imply regulatory non-compliance.

Humidity Cell Testing (HCT): Evaluates longer-term rates of acid generation, neutralization, and metal release under controlled laboratory conditions. Humidity cell tests (HCTs) involve subjecting a sample to repeated wetting and drying cycles to simulate weathering processes and promote sulphide oxidation, followed by weekly flushing with deionized water and analysis of the resulting leachate. The kinetic testing program for the Project includes 15 HCTs for waste rock (12), overburden (1), and MMBCG (2). Five HCTs were terminated after 53 weeks, and active cells have been running for approximately 110 weeks.

Leachate concentrations from the HCTs were also compared to the CWQG-FAL and MDMER criteria to identify parameters with moderate to high leaching potential. Kinetic tests are generally a more reliable indicator of leaching potential than short-term leach tests because they are designed to simulate longer-term weathering and oxidation processes representative of field conditions, in contrast to the aggressive, shorter-duration extraction conditions used in the short-term leach tests. However, the same caveats regarding the interpretation of guideline exceedances discussed above for short-term leach testing results also apply to the HCT leachates.

Mineralogical analysis: Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning Electron Microscopy (QEMSCAN) was conducted on the kinetic testing samples to determine bulk mineralogy and identify acid-generating and acid-neutralizing minerals.

Table 4.3 Summary of Geochemical Tests by Material Type

Material Classification	Wireframe/ Material Type Code ^a	ABA	NAG	Solid- Phase Elemental Analysis	Short- Term Leach Testing ^b	HCT	QEMSCAN
Waste rock	AMD	6	6	6	1	0	0
	BSGI	25	25	25	9	2	2
	BSIL	19	19	19	6	1	1
	CMT	1	1	1	1	0	0
	GAB	5	5	5	3	1	1
	SDG	59	59	59	30	3	3
	SIL	220	220	220	96	5	5
Overburden	OVB	39	39	39	15	1	1
Mineralized material	MMBCG	13	13	13	10	2	2
Total		387	387	387	171	15	15

Notes:

^a Refer to Table 4.2 for material type descriptions.

^b Short-term leach testing includes Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) and Shake Flask Extraction (SFE).

ABA = Acid Base Accounting; NAG = net acid generation; HCT = humidity cell testing; QEMSCAN = Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning Electron Microscopy

4.1.2.2.3 Results

To date, the ongoing ML/ARD program has characterized 387 samples: 355 waste rock samples, 39 overburden samples, and 13 MMBCG samples. The ARD potential and leaching potential of the test materials are summarized in Table 4.4 and Table 4.5, respectively.

Overall, the static and kinetic geochemical test results indicate that most (i.e., greater than 70%) of the Project materials tested are classified as non-PAG based on NPR classification criteria; however, locally elevated acid generation potential is present in specific lithological wireframes and material types, particularly black siltstone (BSIL), interbedded black siltstone/greywacke (BSGI), and MMBCG. The comparison of short-term leach testing and kinetic testing results to the CWQG-FAL and MDMER limits indicates leaching potential for several parameters; arsenic is the most commonly elevated parameter in leachate from non-PAG materials expected to generate neutral drainage, whereas base metals such as copper, nickel, and zinc are more commonly elevated in leachate from PAG materials and samples that generated net acidity in the humidity cell tests. Bulk mineralogical analysis results from 15 waste rock samples show compositions typical of the site's geology, with silicates (quartz, feldspars, phyllosilicates) making up 70 to 80 weight percent (wt.%), carbonates (calcite, dolomite, ankerite, siderite) comprising 20 to 30 wt.%, and sulphides (mainly pyrite, with minor arsenopyrite and chalcopyrite) present in low concentrations (0.1 to 4.7 wt.%).

The ML/ARD characterization results for specific material types are summarized in the following sections.

Table 4.4 Acid Generation Potential of Waste Rock, Overburden, and Mineralized Material

Material Classification	Wireframe/ Material Type Code ^a	Sample Count	NPR ^b			NAG pH ^c	
			% PAG	% Uncertain	% Non- PAG	% PAG	% Non- PAG
Waste rock	AMD	6	17%	0%	83%	0%	100%
	BSGI	25	32%	36%	32%	40%	60%
	BSIL	19	42%	21%	37%	53%	47%
	CMT	1	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
	GAB	5	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
	SDG	59	5%	5%	90%	2%	98%
	SIL	220	14%	12%	74%	10%	90%
Overburden	OVB	39	10%	8%	82%	0%	100%
Mineralized material	MMBCG	13	23%	54%	23%	0%	100%
Total		387	15%	14%	72%	11%	89%

Notes:

^a Refer to Table 4.2 for material type descriptions.

^b Acid generation potential based on NPR: $\text{NPR} \leq 1$ = PAG, $1 < \text{NPR} < 2$ = uncertain, and $\text{NPR} \geq 2$ = non-PAG.

^c Acid generation potential based on NAG pH: $\text{NAG pH} < 4.5$ = PAG and $\text{NAG pH} \geq 4.5$ = non-PAG.

NPR = neutralization potential ratio; NAG = Net Acid Generation; % = percent; PAG = potentially acid generating; non-PAG = non-potentially acid generating

Table 4.5 Leaching Potential of Waste Rock, Overburden, and Mineralized Material

Material Classification	Wireframe / Material Type Code ^a	Sample Count	Parameters with Leaching Potential in Short-Term Leach Tests ^b		Sample Count	Parameters with Leaching Potential in Humidity Cell Tests	
			Moderate Leaching Potential (CWQG-FAL) ^c	High Leaching Potential (MDMER) ^d		Moderate Leaching Potential (CWQG-FAL) ^c	High Leaching Potential (MDMER) ^d
Waste rock	AMD	1	F (100%), P (100%)	-	0	N/A	N/A
	BSGI	9	Al (11%), As (67%), Cu (44%), F (100%), Mn (67%), Mo (22%), Ni (11%), P (56%), Se (89%), Ag (44%), Tl (44%)	-	2	Al (50%), As (50%), Cd (100%), Cu (100%), F (100%), Fe (50%), Mn (100%), Ni (100%), P (100%), Se (100%), U (50%)	Cu (50%), Ni (50%), Zn (50%)
	BSIL	6	As (100%), Cd (50%), Cu (100%), F (100%), Mn (50%), Mo (33%), Ni (50%), Se (100%), Ag (100%), Tl (100%), U (50%)	Ni (17%)	1	Al (100%), As (100%), Cd (100%), Cu (100%), F (100%), Fe (100%), Pb (100%), Mn (100%), Ni (100%), P (100%), Se (100%), Ag (100%), U (100%)	Cu (100%), Ni (100%), Zn (100%)
	CMT	1	As (100%), Cd (100%), Cu (100%), F (100%), Mo (100%), Se (100%), Ag (100%), Tl (100%), Zn (100%)	-	0	N/A	N/A
	GAB	3	Al (100%), As (100%), Cd (33%), Cu (67%), F (100%), Ni (33%), P (33%), Se (67%), Ag (67%), Tl (67%)	As (33%)	1	As (100%), F (100%), P (100%), Se (100%), Zn (100%)	-
	SDG	30	Al (97%), As (97%), Cd (53%), Cu (50%), F (100%), Fe (17%), Pb (10%), Mn (7%), Mo (3%), Ni (3%), P (50%), Se (53%), Ag (50%), Tl (50%), Zn (47%)	As (33%)	3	Al (67%), As (100%), Cu (33%), F (100%), P (100%), Zn (100%)	As (67%)
	SIL	96	Al (91%), As (89%), Cd (29%), Cu (34%), F (100%), Fe (31%), Pb (17%), Mn (8%), Mo (5%), Ni (4%), P (67%), Se (39%), Ag (33%), Tl (33%), Zn (24%)	As (30%), Pb (1%), Ni (1%)	5	Al (40%), As (100%), Cd (40%), Cu (40%), F (100%), Fe (20%), Pb (40%), Mn (40%), Ni (20%), P (100%), Se (20%), U (20%), Zn (60%)	As (60%), Cu (20%), Ni (20%), Zn (20%)
Overburden	OVB	15	Al (73%), As (100%), Cd (20%), Cu (33%), F (100%), Fe (20%), Mo (7%), P (80%), Se (87%), Ag (20%), Tl (20%), Zn (7%)	-	1	Al (100%), As (100%), F (100%), P (100%), Zn (100%)	-
Mineralized material	MMBCG	10	Al (100%), As (90%), Cd (40%), Cu (40%), F (100%), Fe (20%), Pb (10%), Mo (10%), P (70%), Se (30%), Ag (30%), Tl (30%), Zn (30%)	As (70%)	2	As (100%), F (100%), P (100%), Zn (100%)	As (100%)
Total		171			15		

Notes:

^a Refer to Table 4.2 for material type descriptions.

^b Short-term leach testing includes Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) and Shake Flask Extraction (SFE).

^c CWQG-FAL (CCME, 2025). For each material type, the listed parameters exceed the long-term CWQG-FAL in at least one short-term leach test or during at least one humidity cell test cycle. Values shown in parentheses beside each parameter represent the percentage of samples with concentrations exceeding the guideline.

^d MDMER. For each material type, the parameters listed exceed the maximum monthly mean concentration from Schedule 4 Table 1 in at least one short-term leach test or in at least one humidity cell test cycle. Values shown in parentheses beside each parameter represent the percentage of samples with concentrations exceeding the guideline. F = fluoride; P = phosphorus; Al = aluminum; As = arsenic; Cd = cadmium; Cu = copper; Mn = manganese; Mo = molybdenum; Ni = nickel; Se = selenium; Ag = silver; Tl = thallium; U = uranium; Fe = iron; Pb = lead; Zn = zinc; N/A = not applicable; "-" = no exceedance; % = percent

Waste Rock

Siltstone (SIL): The SIL wireframe comprises the majority of waste rock by mass that will be produced at the Project (Table 4.2). The acid generation potential of this unit is generally low, with 74% and 90% of the 220 samples tested classified as non-PAG based on NPR and NAG pH criteria, respectively. Short-term leach testing results for 96 samples indicate high leaching potential for arsenic, with concentrations exceeding MDMER limits in 30% of samples; lead and nickel concentrations each exceed MDMER limits in one sample. Other parameters with moderate leaching potential, based on concentrations exceeding the CWQG-FAL in short-term leach testing, include:

- Fluoride and aluminum: more than 50% of samples.
- Phosphorus, copper, selenium, silver, thallium, iron, cadmium, and zinc: more than 10% of samples, but less than 50%.
- Manganese, molybdenum, and uranium: less than 10% of samples.

To date, five HCTs from the SIL wireframe have been initiated, including two PAG HCTs, one uncertain HCT, and two non-PAG HCTs. One of the PAG samples has produced leachate with pH values of approximately 4 for most of the testing period, with copper, nickel, and zinc concentrations exceeding MDMER limits. The second PAG sample, which was sampled from a quartz vein within the SIL wireframe and consists of 97% quartz, has been largely unreactive and is not expected to generate net acidity for several decades based on current reaction rates. The uncertain and non-PAG HCTs have not generated net acidity, but all produced arsenic concentrations above the MDMER limit during at least one early testing cycle, indicating that arsenic is mobile under neutral drainage conditions. However, arsenic concentrations have generally decreased as testing has progressed. Overall, the SIL HCTs show fewer exceedances of the CWQG-FAL and MDMER limits in comparison to the short-term leach tests.

Greywacke (SDG): The SDG wireframe represents the second largest component of Project waste rock by estimated tonnage (Table 4.2). The acid generation potential of this unit is low, with 90% and 98% of the 59 samples tested classified as non-PAG based on NPR and NAG pH, respectively. Short-term leach testing results for 30 samples indicate arsenic concentrations exceed the MDMER limit in 33% of samples. Other parameters with moderate leaching potential based on concentrations exceeding the CWQG-FAL include:

- Fluoride, aluminum, cadmium, phosphorus, nickel, copper, selenium, and silver: more than 50% of samples.
- Zinc, iron, and lead: more than 10% of samples, but less than 50%.
- Manganese, molybdenum, and thallium: less than 10% of samples.

Three non-PAG SDG HCTs have been initiated for the Project, none of which have generated net acidity. Consistent with the SIL results, arsenic concentrations exceed the MDMER limit in at least one testing cycle in two of the three HCTs, and a smaller proportion of parameters exceed CWQG-FAL and MDMER limits in the HCTs when compared to the short-term leach tests.

Black siltstone (BSIL): The BSIL wireframe comprises a relatively small proportion of the total waste rock that will be produced at the Project (Table 4.2) and, based on the current mine plan, will be encountered in Keats pit only during the later years of the operation phase. This unit exhibits elevated acid generation potential relative to other lithological wireframes, with 37% of the 19 samples tested classified as non-PAG, 21% as uncertain, and 42% as PAG based on NPR; 53% of samples are classified as PAG based on NAG pH. Nickel concentrations exceed the MDMER limit in one of six short-term leach test samples. Parameters with moderate leaching potential based on concentrations exceeding the CWQG-FAL in short-term leach tests include:

- Arsenic, fluoride, copper, selenium, silver, and thallium: 100% of samples.
- Cadmium, uranium, and manganese: 50% of samples.
- Molybdenum: 33% of samples.

One PAG BSIL HCT has been initiated for the Project. This HCT has generated net acidity since the start of testing, with pH values consistently around pH 3, and copper, nickel, and zinc concentrations exceeding MDMER limits. In contrast, arsenic concentrations in this cell have remained below the MDMER limit, suggesting reduced arsenic mobility under acidic conditions. In contrast to the SIL and SDG HCTs, a higher number of parameters exceed the CWQG-FAL in the BSIL HCTs when compared to the BSIL short-term leach tests.

Interbedded black siltstone and greywacke (BSGI): The BSGI wireframe is a minor component of the waste rock that will be produced at the Project (Table 4.2) and shows variable acid generation potential, with 32% of the 25 samples tested classified as non-PAG, 36% as uncertain, and 32% as PAG; 40% of samples are classified as PAG based on NAG pH. No parameters exceed MDMER limits in short-term leach testing. Parameters with moderate leaching potential based on concentrations exceeding the CWQG-FAL in nine short-term leach tests include:

- Fluoride, phosphorus, arsenic, and nickel: more than 50% of samples.
- Copper, selenium, silver, thallium, molybdenum, and aluminum: more than 10% of samples, but less than 50%.

Two BSGI HCTs with uncertain ARD potential have been initiated for the Project, neither of which have generated acidic leachate. In one of the HCTs, copper, nickel, and zinc concentrations exceeded MDMER limits during the first testing cycle but have since stabilized at lower concentrations. Concentrations in the other HCT were also highest during the first testing cycle, though concentrations were below MDMER criteria. Similar to the BSIL HCTs, more parameters exceed the CWQG-FAL in the BSGI HCTs in comparison to the short-term leach tests.

Minor units (AMD, CMT, and GAB): Amygdular mafic to intermediate dykes (AMD), conglomerate (CMT), and gabbro (GAB) collectively comprise a small portion of the waste rock that will be produced at the Project and are considered minor units (Table 4.2). These units are largely non-PAG, with five of six (83%) AMD samples, one of one (100%) CMT samples, and five of five (100%) GAB samples classified as non-PAG based on NPR; 100% of samples from the three wireframes are non-PAG based on NAG pH.

The comparison of short-term leach testing results to the CWQG-FAL indicates moderate leaching potential for the following parameters:

- AMD: fluoride and phosphorus.
- CMT: arsenic, cadmium, copper, fluoride, molybdenum, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc.
- GAB: arsenic, aluminum, copper, fluoride, phosphorus, selenium, silver, thallium, cadmium, and nickel.

Arsenic concentrations exceed the MDMER limit in one GAB short-term leach test, while no MDMER exceedances were identified for AMD or CMT. Humidity cell testing was completed for one non-PAG GAB sample, which did not generate acidity or release metals at concentrations exceeding MDMER criteria. To date, HCTs have not been initiated for AMD or CMT.

Overburden

The acid generation potential of overburden (OVB) is low, with 82% of the 39 samples tested classified as non-PAG, 8% as uncertain, and 10% as PAG based on NPR, and 100% classified as non-PAG based on NAG pH. No concentrations exceed MDMER limits in 15 short-term leach tests, though the following parameters have moderate leaching potential based on CWQG-FAL exceedances:

- Arsenic and fluoride: 100% of samples.
- Phosphorus, aluminum, and nickel: more than 50% of samples.
- Cadmium, copper, iron, selenium, and silver: more than 10% of samples, but less than 50%.
- Molybdenum and zinc: one sample.

Humidity cell testing was completed for one OVB sample and terminated after 53 weeks. The cell did not generate acidity; aluminum, arsenic, fluoride, phosphorus, and zinc concentrations exceeded the CWQG-FAL during at least one testing cycle, with a higher proportion of exceedances occurring during earlier testing cycles. No MDMER exceedances were measured.

Mineralized Material

Mineralized material below cut-off grade represents mineralized rock that will be stockpiled for potential future processing. Some gold mineralization at the Project is associated with sulphide minerals, and therefore MMBCG is likely to have higher ARD and ML potential than unmineralized waste rock.

Geochemical testing to date indicates that the acid generating potential of MMBCG samples is variable: 23% of the 13 samples tested are classified as PAG, 54% as uncertain, and 23% as non-PAG based on NPR. Arsenic concentrations exceed the MDMER criterion in 7 of 10 (70%) short-term leach tests. Parameters with moderate leaching potential based on CWQG-FAL exceedances in short-term leach testing include:

- Fluoride and aluminum: 100% of samples.
- Phosphorus: more than 50% of samples.
- cadmium, copper, selenium, silver, thallium, zinc, iron, lead, and molybdenum: more than 10% of samples, but less than 50%.

Two uncertain MMBCG HCTs have been initiated to date, neither of which have generated net acidity. These samples contain elevated solid-phase arsenic concentrations relative to waste rock of the same lithologies, and mineralogical analysis confirms the presence of relatively high proportions of arsenopyrite. Arsenic concentrations exceed the MDMER limit in leachate from both MMBCG HCTs, indicating higher rates of arsenic release under neutral conditions.

Additional sampling and testing of MMBCG, as well as higher-grade mineralized material, is ongoing. The results of additional testing will be used to better characterize the ML/ARD potential of materials stored at the ore stockpile.

4.1.2.3 Climate

Climate normals for the 1991 to 2020 30-year period (Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC] 2025a) and hourly wind data for the 2019 to 2024 period were obtained for the Gander, NL, climate station. The Gander station is located approximately 15 km east of the Project. The 1991 to 2020 climate normal for the Gander station are shown in Table 4.6.

Daily average temperatures at Gander range between -6.8 to 16.7 degrees Celsius (°C), with the lowest average temperatures occurring in February and the highest occurring in August. Extreme daily maximum and minimum temperatures range between -23.1°C (February) to 31.7°C (August).

Total annual average precipitation at Gander is 1,247 millimetres (mm), with 443.4 centimetres (cm) of snow and 882.2 mm of rain. Monthly average precipitation ranges between 88.8 to 121.3 mm, with the least occurring in June and the most occurring in December.

A wind rose plot of the annual winds at Gander from 2019 to 2024 is shown in Figure 4.3. Seasonal wind rose plots are also shown in Figure 4.4. Winds prevail from the westerly and north directions. The highest wind speeds occur most frequently from the north direction and the lowest wind speeds occur most frequently from the west and south directions. Generally, the seasonal winds are consistent, with winds prevailing from the west, north and southwest (i.e., there is some seasonal variation in the winds at Gander).

Table 4.6 Climate Normals, Gander, NL (1991 - 2020)

Parameter	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Temperature													
Daily Mean (°C)	-6.6	-6.8	-3.8	1.4	6.7	11.6	16.6	16.6	12.3	6.7	1.8	-3.1	4.5
Daily Maximum (°C)	-2.8	-2.7	0.3	5.4	11.7	17.0	21.8	21.4	16.9	10.4	5.1	0.1	8.7
Daily Minimum (°C)	-10.4	-10.9	-7.7	-2.7	1.6	6.2	11.3	11.7	7.7	2.9	-1.5	-6.3	0.2
Extreme Daily Maximum (°C)	14.2	13.4	18.1	21.2	31.0	31.7	31.4	31.7	29.1	24.7	17.5	15.2	-
Date (yyyy/dd)	2006/15	1996/25	1999/29	2018/28	2012/22	1999/14	2007/28	1996/07	2003/14	2010/01	2010/06	2008/13	-
Extreme Daily Minimum (°C)	-23.0	-27.6	-22.8	-17.6	-7.3	-2.0	1.8	2.8	-0.5	-4.9	-15.7	-18.8	-
Date (yyyy/dd)	1998/07	1994/09	1997/10	1994/03	1993/10	2018/03	1995/02	2002/31	2013/21	1993/27	1993/25	1995/31	-
Precipitation													
Rainfall (mm)	26.2	25.0	25.4	51.7	78.2	89.8	107.2	106.5	121.1	116.0	80.4	54.7	882.2
Snowfall (cm)	94.1	81.0	85.5	45.5	10.6	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	12.4	29.7	80.2	443.4
Precipitation (mm)	102.8	91.4	105.2	92.0	93.8	88.8	105.0	101.7	115.2	119.9	110.1	121.3	1,247.1
Extreme Daily Rainfall (mm)	23.4	28.6	18.2	46.0	44.4	38.8	76.4	119.2	84.6	49.0	87.8	49.2	-
Date (yyyy/dd)	2010/03	1996/26	2005/02	2015/28	1991/17	1992/16	2018/12	2013/30	2010/21	2011/26	2003/22	2010/22	-
Extreme Daily Snowfall (cm)	48.6	40.4	58.6	35.0	50.8	21.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	41.0	43.6	41.6	-
Date (yyyy/dd)	2019/02	2006/25	1993/18	2004/25	2013/19	1994/03	1991/01	1991/01	2018/18	2009/17	1997/28	2000/23	-
Extreme Daily Precipitation (mm)	40.6	38.6	67.0	52.0	50.8	55.0	73.1	115.4	84.6	133.6	87.8	51.0	-
Date (yyyy/dd)	1991/11	2006/25	1993/18	1999/28	2013/19	1994/03	2018/12	2013/30	2010/21	2016/10	2003/22	2010/22	-

Source: ECCC (2025a)

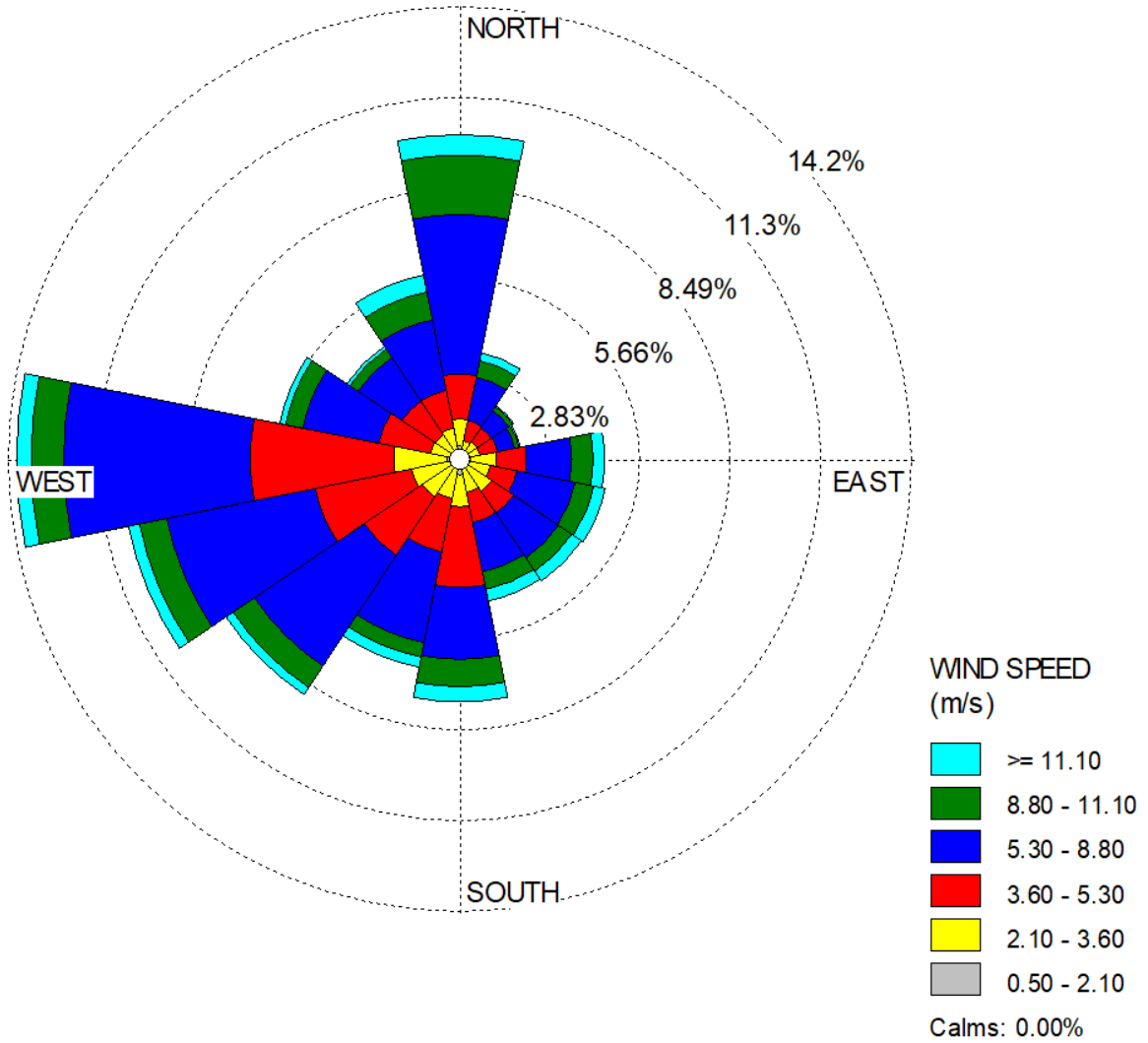


Figure 4.3 Winds at Gander, NL (2020 - 2024)



Figure 4.4 Seasonal Winds at Gander, NL (2021 - 2024)

4.1.2.4 Air Quality

The air quality in the vicinity of the Project Area is characterized as that of a rural wooded forest with camps and cottages. The primary source of air contaminants is from personal vehicles and ATVs on the trails and access roads, as well as traffic travelling on the nearby TCH. Some of the surrounding area roads appear to have been used for logging in the past (Stantec 2024a).

To further characterize ambient air quality, New Found Gold completed ambient air quality monitoring at two locations near the Project Area in August 2023: within the Town of Appleton and near Joe Batt's Pond. Sampling included total suspended particulates, particulate matter less than 2.5 microns and nitrogen dioxide. The results of sampling confirmed these three components to be below threshold limits set by the provincial Ambient Air Quality Standards (Stantec 2024a).

4.1.2.5 Terrestrial Ecology

The Central Newfoundland Forest ecoregion is the second largest ecoregion on the Island of Newfoundland with an area of approximately 28,000 km² (PAANL 2008). This ecoregion has a climate with the highest summer temperatures, lowest winter temperatures, and the least amount of fog and wind on the Island. Most of its forests are boreal (PAANL 2008).

With warm summers, low rainfall, and occasional prolonged dry spells, the north-central subregion has the greatest number of forest fires on the Island of Newfoundland, which has resulted in extensive fire stands of black spruce (*Picea mariana*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) (PAANL 2008). Dome bogs are common and in areas where fires have repeatedly occurred, a dwarf-shrub heath provides the dominant vegetation cover. Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) with a feathermoss floor covering occurs in areas not prone to fires. There are numerous rivers, ponds, and wetlands in the area, including Gander Lake and its watershed (PAANL 2008).

Within the area studied, several natural ecosystems have been identified including forests, wetlands, scrubland, and waterbodies, with forest communities occupying most of the area (GEMTEC 2023a; Stantec 2024b). The area studied is relatively undisturbed with few anthropogenically influenced areas (GEMTEC 2023a; Stantec 2024b).

The region is home to a variety of typical boreal forest wildlife and bird species that are adapted to long winters and short summers (PAANL 2008). Wildlife identified during baseline field surveys include American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), American toad (*Bufo americanus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), eastern coyote (*Canis latrans*), green frog (*Rana clamitans*), moose (*Alces alces*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a, 2024b).

Typical birds (avifauna) that occur in the region include raptors (e.g., northern goshawk [*Accipiter gentilis*]), woodpeckers (e.g., northern flicker [*Colaptes auratus*]), upland game birds (ruffed grouse [*Bonasa umbellus*] and spruce grouse [*Falcapennis canadensis*]), waterfowl and other waterbirds (e.g., Canada goose [*Branta canadensis*], common merganser [*Mergus merganser*], and greater yellowlegs [*Tringa melanoleuca*]), and a variety of songbirds (e.g., chickadees, warblers, and thrushes) (Meades 1990 in GEMTEC 2023a). Just over 70 avifauna species have been identified during field surveys. The most common species include ruby-crowned kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*), fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), black-and-white warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), and Magnolia warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a).

The region's habitats support species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC). SAR include those species designated as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern under Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and/or the NL *Endangered Species Act* (NL ESA). The protection of SAR and their residences is a legal requirement for those species listed under Schedule 1 of SARA and the NL ESA. While SOCC are not specified under federal or provincial legislation, in NL these are species that are considered rare in the province, or ones for which the long-term sustainability of their populations has been evaluated as tenuous, i.e., those species listed S1, S1S2, or S2 for wildlife. SOCC can also include a few species that are of particular interest to various government agencies.

Of the wildlife mammal species confirmed during baseline studies, two bat species are listed under Schedule 1 of SARA as Endangered: northern myotis and little brown myotis. Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA, is not expected to occur in the Project Area (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a). However, occasional vagrants are possible, and an incidental observation of a single female caribou was documented in 2023 south of the Project Area, near Gander Lake (GEMTEC 2024a). Caribou are also known to occur north and west of the Project Area. Other wildlife SAR with the potential to occur in the region include three species of migratory bats: hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), and silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*); four species of insects: gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus bohemicus*), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), yellow-banded bumble bee (*Bombus terricola*), and transverse lady beetle (*Coccinella transversoguttata*); and American marten – Newfoundland population (*Martes americana atrata*); however, there are no documented populations in the Project Area for these species (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a).

Several avian species listed under Schedule 1 of the federal SARA were identified during baseline breeding bird surveys: olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*; Special Concern), rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*; Special Concern), red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra perona*; Threatened), gray-cheeked thrush (*Catharus minimus*), and evening grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*; Special Concern). Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre records within 5 km of the Project identified one other SAR: bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*; Threatened). Additionally, three SOCC were confirmed during baseline studies: least flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), yellow-bellied sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), and Nashville warbler (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*) (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a). A review of historical records notes that additional avifauna SOCC have the potential to occur within or near the Project Area, where suitable habitat is present, including American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), bay-breasted warbler (*Setophaga castanea*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Cape May warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a).

Over 200 flora species have been recorded during recent field investigations (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a; Stantec 2024b). No plant SAR were identified during field investigations, but three of the flora species identified are considered to be SOCC: black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), cyperus-like sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus hyperboreus*) (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a; Stantec 2024b). A review of data from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre has shown additional rare flora species may be present in the vicinity of the Project Area and include American mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*) and western dock (*Rumex occidentalis*), and SAR species such as boreal felt lichen (*Erioderma pedicellatum*) (GEMTEC 2023a, 2024a). Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) was observed outside of the Project Area during field surveys (GEMTEC 2024a), but these appear to be planted and are therefore not considered SAR.

Critical habitat, as defined by SARA, for the terrestrial species noted above has not been identified in the Project Area (Government of Canada 2025). New Found Gold understands that management of potential Project interactions with SAR and SOCC will require close collaboration with regulators and development of project-specific mitigation and monitoring measures.

4.1.2.6 Aquatic Ecosystem

The Project Area is in the Gander River Watershed, the third largest watershed on the Island of Newfoundland, with a total area of 5,310 km² (Environmental Design and Management Ltd. 1996). The watershed offers lake, pond, river, and stream habitats for a variety of life stages of fish species. Gander Lake is one of the largest lakes on the Island of Newfoundland (Environmental Design and Management Ltd. 1996) and the Gander River generally flows northeast into Gander Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. The Gander River supports a variety of fish species, including Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), threespine and ninespine sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus* and *Pungitius pungitius*, respectively), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), and Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) (Wildlife Division 2010).

Aquatic SAR / SOCC have not been confirmed present in the Project Area (GEMTEC 2023b, Stantec 2024c), but American eel is known to occur (Wildlife Division 2010). American eel is considered a SAR on the Island of Newfoundland and are considered “Threatened” under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and “Vulnerable” under the NL ESA (COSEWIC 2012; Wildlife Division 2010). The Gander River is a scheduled salmon river and has a well-known recreational salmon fishery. Atlantic salmon from the Gander River are part of the Northeast Newfoundland population and considered “Not at Risk” by COSEWIC (COSEWIC 2010).

The Gander River Watershed is characterized by a relatively low human footprint compared to other watersheds in Newfoundland. The main threats to fish populations are limited to aquatic connectivity (i.e., barriers to fish migration) and climate change effects such as increased water temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and severe rainfall events which could result in erosion and sedimentation (DFO 2023).

Ponds sampled during field surveys vary in size (0.5 to 73.8 ha) and depth (2 to 9 m) with primarily fine substrates and cover provided by aquatic vegetation (Stantec 2024c). While most substrates in ponds are composed of fines, some ponds have shoals consisting of medium or coarse substrates. Streams within the area studied are generally small to medium. Headwater streams are often small with intermittent channels and fine substrates and typically drain wetlands. Perennial streams typically contain riffle run

habitats and coarse substrates which are suitable for salmonids (Stantec 2024c). Atlantic salmon, brook trout, and threespine stickleback were confirmed present during field surveys (GEMTEC 2023b; Stantec 2024c). Overall, the streams and ponds in the Project Area are highly influenced by beaver activities and ultimately affect the presence and abundance of fish species in the area.

Watershed boundaries for the tributaries and sub-watersheds of Gander River and Gander Lake within the area studied were delineated in ArcGIS using light detection and ranging-derived digital elevation model information collected in 2021, for New Found Gold, with a resolution of one metre. The main watersheds within and in the vicinity of the Project Area are the North Herman's and South Herman's Ponds that flow via an unnamed watercourse to the Gander River, and Joe Batts Pond, which flows into Joe Batt's Brook and then into the Gander River. Sub-watersheds were defined within watersheds, based on junctions of tributaries of equal or higher order channels following the Strahler Stream order method and locations of monitoring stations.

The Watershed Management Plan for the Gander Lake water supply recommends a development buffer of 300 m from the high-water mark of the lake to protect water quality. This buffer zone is intended to limit erosion, trap soil particles, and reduce sedimentation of lake water by restricting development along the shoreline, particularly near steep slopes. The buffer is part of a broader watershed protection strategy that includes additional setbacks for tributaries and other waterbodies within the catchment area. Development within the buffer zone is subject to restrictions on the type of activities permitted and the methods used in order to maintain the integrity of the water supply. New Found Gold is aware that proposals for development in this zone must be referred to the Gander Lake Watershed Management Committee for review and approval.

4.1.2.7 Social, Cultural and Economic Environment

The Project Area is in close proximity to the towns of Gander (population 11,880), Appleton (population 620), and Glenwood (population 739), and is adjacent to the TCH. The municipal boundary of the Town of Appleton is closest to the Project Area. The town's most recent municipal plan (Town of Appleton 2020) outlines designated planning areas for future community development, and a portion of this planning area overlaps the Project Area.

Gander is a regional service centre for the northeastern Island of Newfoundland, with numerous government offices, hotels, a hospital, recreational facilities, military and commercial aerospace facilities, and a campus of the College of the North Atlantic.

Recreational and harvesting activities, such as berry picking, hunting, fishing, and hiking are known to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area given the abundance of access trails and roads, including the T'Railway. In addition, the presence of the cottage planning area and numerous cabins / cottages located in proximity to Joe Batt's Pond indicates that use of the surrounding land for subsistence and recreational purposes is likely high in the area.

There are several documented land use and land zoning constraints in the vicinity of the Project Area including protected roads (i.e., the TCH), provincial parks (i.e., the T'Railway), the PPWSA, agricultural activity, Crown leases and grants (e.g., seasonal residences, agricultural leases), and transmission line rights-of-way (RoWs).

For the transmission line RoWs that overlap the Project Area, New Found Gold is currently engaging with NL Hydro, Newfoundland Power and Bell Aliant to have these power and fibre transmission line corridors relocated at New Found Gold's expense.

4.1.2.8 Historic Resources

While there are no registered historic resource sites within the Project Area, there are several registered sites along the Gander River and east of the Project Area (Stantec 2023). There is also broad theoretical potential for unknown historic resources within the Project Area, particularly those pertaining to the Pre-Contact Period and specific aspects of the Historic Period such as the logging, railway, and aviation industries, while moderate potential exists for historic Beothuk and Mi'kmaq occupations of the north-central interior (Stantec 2023).

Based on a desktop review conducted in 2023, Stantec identified generalized high archaeological potential zones within 50 m of most watercourses and waterbodies within the area studied and on either side of the T'Railway (Stantec 2023). In 2023, a field assessment was conducted (Stantec 2024d). No surface-visible features or artifacts of archaeological significance were identified, and these sites, in general, were assessed as exhibiting low archaeological potential for sub-surface archaeological resources. Moreover, no landform features conducive to past human settlement or activity were identified.

4.2 Site History

The extensive historical exploration of the Queensway Property was completed by multiple operators and prospectors, before the 1980s through present day. The exploration methods used include surface geochemical sampling, trenching, drilling, and airborne and ground geophysical surveys.

Surface geochemical sampling covers the widest geographical extent of the Property, and amounts to approximately 3,500 till samples, over 600 stream and lake sediment samples, 6,500 rock samples, and over 27,000 soil samples. This extensive data set has identified several gold-in-soil or gold-in-till anomalies that have led to surface gold discoveries.

Over 330 trenches have been completed historically across the Property, targeting previously discovered gold-in-soil and gold-in-till anomalies. Over 1,600 channel samples were taken from trenches that reached bedrock, with the remaining trenches open to further exploration.

More than 50 historical airborne and ground geophysical surveys have been conducted throughout the Property including very low frequency electromagnetic, electromagnetic, magnetic, induced polarization, versatile time domain electromagnetic, and controlled source audio-frequency magnetotellurics. Most of the geographical extent of these geophysical surveys is concentrated along either the AFZ and JBPfz, or in the QWS claims group around the Paul's Pond and Greenwood Pond gold showings.

A summary of historic drilling is provided in Table 4.7, and a summary of historical exploration work completed on the Queensway Property is provided in Table 4.8. Note that these tables focus on work completed by other companies.

Table 4.7 Summary of Historic Drilling at Queensway

Company	Start Date	End Date	Total Length (m)	No. of Holes
Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation (NALCO)	1955-12-12	1956-02-26	1,224.4	9
Bison Petroleum & Minerals Ltd.	1969-09-06	1969-10-11	831.8	6
Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Company Ltd.	1980-08-10	1980-09-18	392.1	7
Falconbridge Ltd.	1987-09-23	1987-10-19	1,018.6	12
Noranda Exploration Company Ltd.	1987-12-11	1990-11-08	2,085.3	24
Gander River Minerals	1991-03-06	1994-02-14	1,954.0	18
Manor Resources Inc.	1991-06-30	1991-07-01	50.3	1
United Carina Resources	1999-10-22	2000-03-08	3,649.3	38
VVC Exploration	2003-01-01	2003-02-28	1,486.3	18
Camdenite Resources Corp.	2003-02-14	2004-10-09	1,430.0	9
Rubicon Minerals Corp.	2004-06-10	2005-03-19	6,545.9	42
Paragon Minerals Corp.	2005-01-14	2008-07-05	5,677.0	33
Crosshair Exploration & Mining	2005-05-12	2005-05-28	488.2	6
Soldi Ventures	2011-11-16	2012-02-10	2,759.9	23
Sky Gold Corp.	2020	2021	3,352.0	19
Labrador Gold Corp. (rotary air blasting)	2020	2022	8,382.0	154
Labrador Gold Corp. (reverse circulation)	2020	2022	434.0	6
Labrador Gold Corp. (diamond drilling)	2021	2024	91,420.0	341
Totals			133,181.1	766

Table 4.8 Summary of Historic Exploration Work Completed on the Queensway Property

Years	Companies	Optionor / Prospector	Location	Prospecting	Mapping	Rock Sampling	Geo-physics	Trenching	Drilling	Program Highlights
1955-1956	NALCO		Caribou Lake		x		x		x	First documented exploration work
1974	Bison Petroleum & Minerals Ltd.	NALCO	Caribou Lake				x		x	
1979-1881	Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Company Ltd.	NALCO	Gander Lake		x		x	x	x	
		C. Reid								
1987-1991	Falconbridge Ltd.		SW Gander River		x	x	x		x	
			JBPfZ	x	x	x		x	x	
1987-1988	Noranda		Gander Lake Outflow			x	x	x	x	5-28 parts per million (ppm) (outcrop samples); 1.5-2 ppm (trench samples); 1.1-4.5 ppm (drillholes)
			Appleton							
1988-1990	Noranda Exploration		Twin Ponds			x	x	x	x	2.45 ppm (pan concentrate); 441 ppm (thin vein in trench)
			Big Pond							
			Blue Peter							
1990-1991	Manor Resources		Twin Ponds	x		x	x		x	2 ppm (soil sample)
1992-1994	Gander River Minerals		AFZ				x	x	x	2.3 m @ 14.8 ppm (drillhole)
	Noranda Exploration									
1995-2004		L.L. Chan	Pauls Pond	x		x				7.68 ppm (till)
			Greenwood Pond							
1997-1998		P. Crocker	AFZ	x		x				153.4 ppm (grab sample)
		D. Barbour								
		R. Churchill								

Table 4.8 Summary of Historic Exploration Work Completed on the Queensway Property

Years	Companies	Optionor / Prospector	Location	Prospecting	Mapping	Rock Sampling	Geo-physics	Trenching	Drilling	Program Highlights
1997-2001	Altius Minerals	Forex Resources	Aztec Trend	x		x	x			2.1 ppm (grab sample)
	Cornerstone Resources		Greenwood Pond							
			Pauls Pond							
1998-2016	Krinor Resources	A. & K. Keats	AFZ	x						Discovery of Dome prospect
		P. Dimmell								
1999-2000	United Carina		AFZ	x		x		x	x	Several drillhole intervals with gold grades above 10 ppm.
			7984M (AFZ)							
1999-2001	Cornerstone Resources		Pauls Pond	x		x	x			0.8 – 2.1 ppm (grab samples)
2000-2002		C. Reid	AFZ to JBPFZ	x						VG noted near Gander Lake
			7179M (AFZ)							
2000-2009		L. & E. Quinlan	AFZ	x		x				Discovered Lachlan prospect; 61 ppm (grab sample)
			JBPFZ							
2002	Grayd Resources	Fortis GeoServices	Greenwood Pond	x	x		x	x		10.9 ppm (grab sample)
2002-2005	Candente Resources		Greenwood Pond	x			x		x	>1,000 ppm (quartz boulders); 1.0 m @ 6.1 ppm (drill hole); 0.8 m @ 15.7 ppm (drill hole)
			Pauls Pond							
			Goose Pond							
			AFZ							
2002-2005	Crosshair Exploration and Mining		Big Pond	x	x	x		x	x	40 – 50 ppm (trench samples)
			Dan's Pond							
			Pauls Pond							
				x		x	x	x	10 – 15 ppm (trench samples); 0.35 m @ 7.1 ppm (drill hole); 0.5 m @ 4.3 ppm (drill hole)	

Table 4.8 Summary of Historic Exploration Work Completed on the Queensway Property

Years	Companies	Optionor / Prospector	Location	Prospecting	Mapping	Rock Sampling	Geo-physics	Trenching	Drilling	Program Highlights
2003-2006	Paragon Minerals	KriASK Syndicate	JBPfZ	x		x	x	x	x	1x0.5 m boulder with 798 ppm gold gives the 798 Zone its name; 22.6 ppm (trench sample); 4 drill hole intervals >10 ppm
	Rubicon Minerals		H-Pond							
			Pocket Pond							
2004-2005	Spruce Ridge Resources		Gander Lake	x		x		x		1.2 ppm (trench sample)
			Little Harbour							
2005-2014		R. & E. Quinlan	AFZ to JBPfZ	x		x				18.7 ppm (grab sample); 20+ surface samples >1 ppm
		Quinlan Prospecting	12652M (AFZ)							
2007-2008	Paragon Minerals		AFZ						x	Last drilling on AFZ pre-New Found Gold; 0.9 m @ 2.5 ppm (drill hole); 3.6 m @ 3.2 ppm (drill hole); 1.2 m @ 5.8 ppm (drill hole)
	Rubicon Minerals									
2007-2010		J. Sceviour	Pauls Pond	x		x				Surface float samples above 0.2 ppm
2011-2012	Soldi Ventures		AFZ						x	5.4 m @ 9.8 ppm (drill hole); 7.1 m @ 12.4 ppm (drill hole)
2011-2012	Metals Creek Resources		Gander Lake	x		x		x		59.4 ppm (grab sample); 26.8 m @ 0.3 ppm (trench)
2020-2021	Sky Gold Corp.		Mustang			x			x	
2020-2024	Labrador Gold Corp.		Kingsway	x	x	x	x	x	x	501 drill holes defining 9 gold prospects

4.3 Schedule

New Found Gold will initiate early works and construction activities upon receipt of required permits and although some early works may begin in late 2026, the majority of construction activities will begin as early in 2027 as possible (Figure 4.5). The timing of early works is contingent upon the Project receiving release from the EA process. Construction of the Project is expected to occur over a period of 4-6 months and will generally proceed according to the schedule presented in Figure 4.5. Note that while Figure 4.5 includes up to Q4 of 2028, mine operation will continue past this time period as further described below.

The Project will operate 12 months a year, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, on a 12-hour shift basis. Based on currently planned production rates, the operation phase will last approximately 7 years. This assessment conservatively assumes higher mining rates; should mining rates be reduced, the life-of-mine (LoM) will be extended. Exploration work and feasibility studies are ongoing and if additional resources are identified, there is additional potential for the LoM to be extended.

Closure and rehabilitation activities associated with the Project will take place after mining operations have been completed. Post-closure monitoring activities will be carried out in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (RCP) in place for New Found Gold’s operation.

Phase	2025		2026				2027				2028			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Public, Stakeholder and Regulatory Engagement														
Assessment and Permitting														
Detail Design														
Early Works														
Construction														
Operation*														
*Operation will extend for 7 years														

Figure 4.5 Preliminary Project Schedule

4.4 Project Components

4.4.1 Overview of Mine Development Plan

The general site layout of Project components is provided in Figure 4.6.

The Project includes the following physical components:

- Open pits and associated infrastructure
- Organics and overburden storage facility
- Waste rock storage facility
- Ore stockpile
- Crushing and sorting plant
- Roads (including new highway access point, haul roads, and site roads)
- Electrical and communications infrastructure
- Buildings and supporting infrastructure (including laydown areas, weigh scale, warehouse(s), administrative complex, parking areas and mobile equipment workshop, substation, and fuel storage / island)
- Explosives storage area
- Water intake and distribution
- Water management infrastructure

Each of these components is discussed in further detail in the sections below. Note that refinements to the mine plan (e.g., material movement estimates) will likely be made as the Project advances through detailed design and the resource is better defined.

The mine plan includes four open pit mining areas, as outlined in Table 4.9 and illustrated in Figure 4.6, covering an area of approximately 10 ha. A total of 1.91 million tonnes (Mt) of mineralized material will be extracted from these pits, with an average diluted gold grade of 9.06 g/t and an overall strip ratio of 35.8. This mine plan is consistent with NI 43-101 technical report for the Queensway Gold project filed on September 2, 2025, which demonstrates prudent resource management.

\\s0151-PPFS01\work_group\1214\active\12141759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

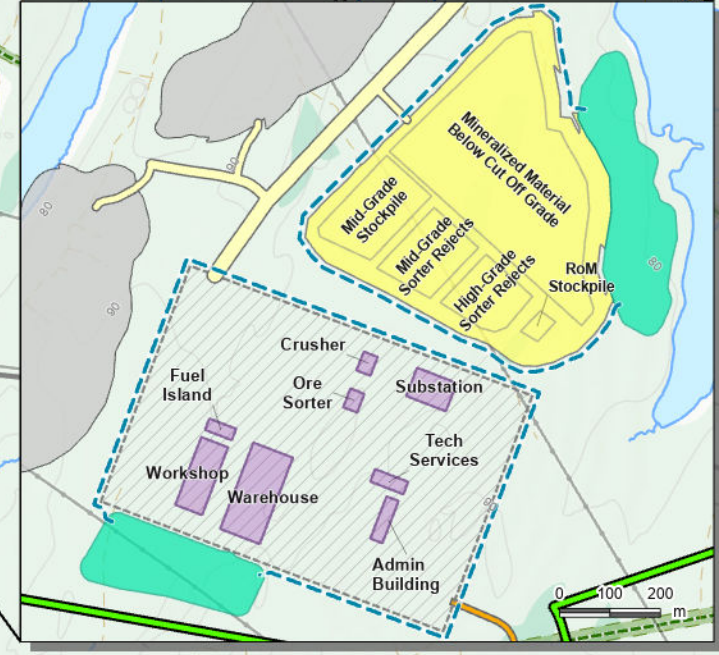
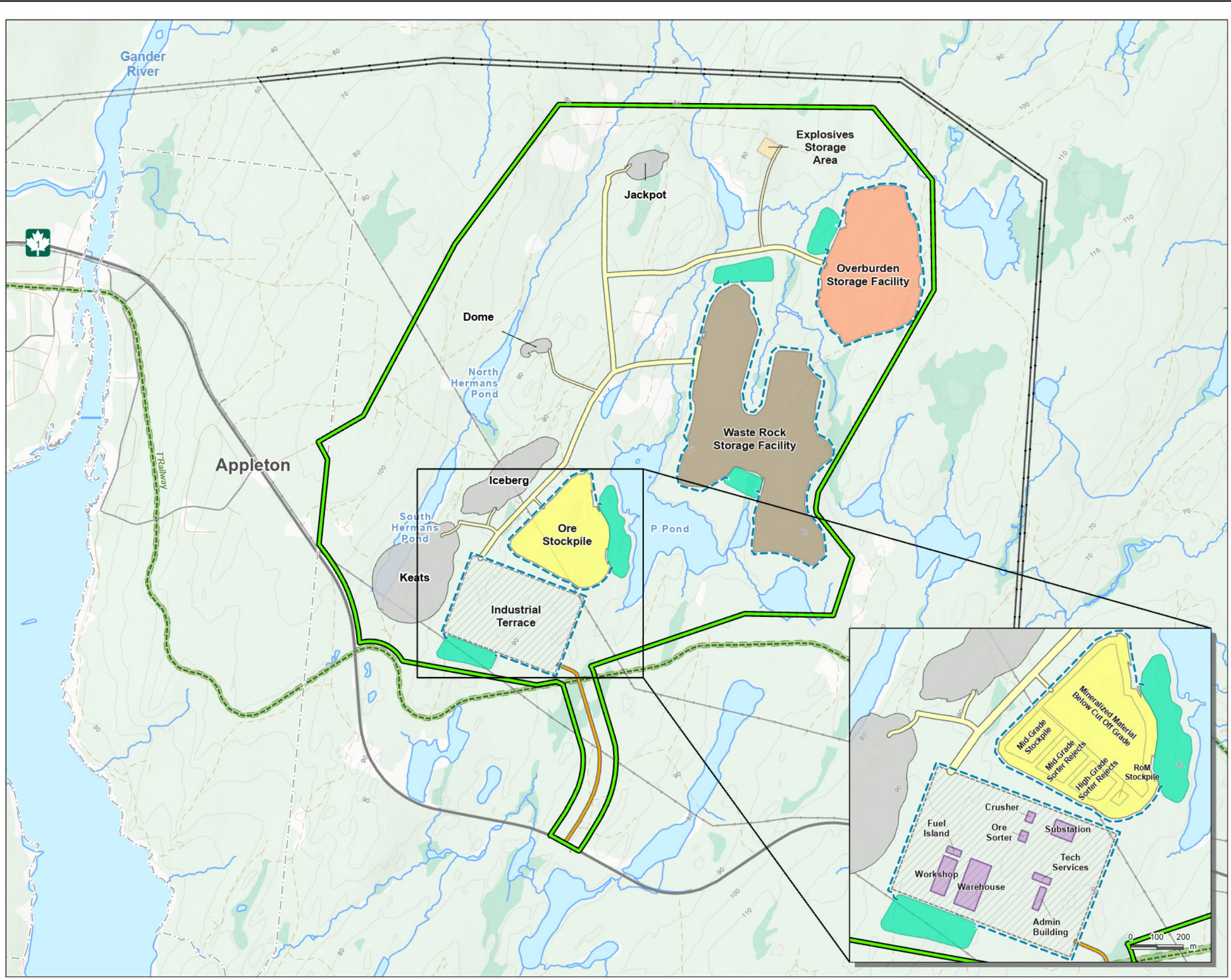
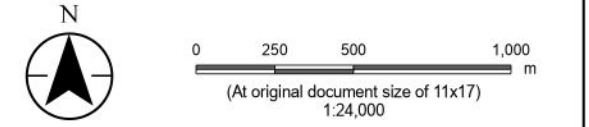
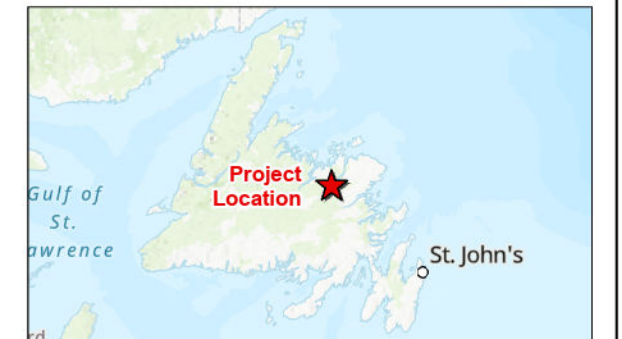


Figure No. **4.6**
Title
Queensway Gold Project
Proposed Site Layout
 Client/Project 121418510_135
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project
 Project Location North Gander Lake, Newfoundland and Labrador
 Prepared by NW on 2028-03-09
 QR by PM on 2028-04-14
 TR by KF on 2028-03-09



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Area | Existing Infrastructure |
| Access Road | — Transmission Line |
| Haul Road | — Proposed Transmission Line (Re-routing) |
| Ditch | — Highway |
| Open Pit | — Collector |
| Ore Stockpile | — Local / Street |
| Overburden Storage Facility | — Resource Road / Trail |
| Waste Rock Storage Facility | — NL T'Railway Route |
| Sedimentation Pond | Provincial Park |
| Other Mine Features | Wetlands and Waterways |
| Industrial Terrace | — Watercourse |
| Building | Waterbody |
| | Wetland |
| | Forested Area |
| | Other Features |
| | — Contour (10 m) |
| | Municipal Boundaries |



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada.
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping, Topographic Mapping - Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS



Mining operations will be carried out using contractor-operated fleet, employing smaller equipment to reduce dilution and enhance selectivity. The fleet will include circa 40-tonne haul trucks and 3.0 cubic metre (m³) shovels, using standard surface mining techniques. Ore will be transported either to the crushing and sorting facility or to a designated stockpile for further processing. Waste rock and overburden will be hauled to appropriate on-site storage facilities, while mineralized waste and sorting plant rejects will be stockpiled for potential future reprocessing.

During peak production, mining rates will reach up to 12.5 Mt per year to support a daily throughput of 700 tonnes of ore to the Pine Cove processing facility. The mining sequence and production rate have been optimized to prioritize higher-grade material during the initial years of operation. Pit development will follow a phased approach to extract the highest-grade material, beginning with the Keats deposit. Subsequent pits will be sequenced to continue targeting areas with elevated grades, supporting early Project economics and efficient resource recovery. Physical parameters for each open pit are detailed in Table 4.9 (presented in the order of anticipated pit development). Note that as shown in Table 4.9, the current mine plan has the Keats pit being developed first. Depending on the timing of relocation of the transmission lines by NL Hydro and Newfoundland Power, the Iceberg pit could be developed first, followed by the Keats pit.

Table 4.9 Queensway Pit Physical Parameters

Parameter	Keats	Iceberg	Jackpot	Dome	Total
Ore kilotonne (kt)	953	854	76	23	1,906
Gold Grade (g/t)	8.12	10.19	8.27	8.59	9.06
Gold kilo-ounce (koz)	249	280	20	6	555
Waste rock (kt)	48,472	12,869	2,041	354	63,737
Overburden (kt)	3,107	912	336	92	4,447
Total tonnage (kt)	52,532	14,635	2,454	469	70,090
Strip ratio	54.1	16.1	31.2	19.1	35.8
Pit depth (m)	240.0	120.0	70.0	45.0	-
Length (m)	675.0	700.0	240.0	180.0	-
Width (m)	470.0	230.0	150.0	75.0	-

A conceptual model for Iceberg Pit design is shown in Figure 4.7.

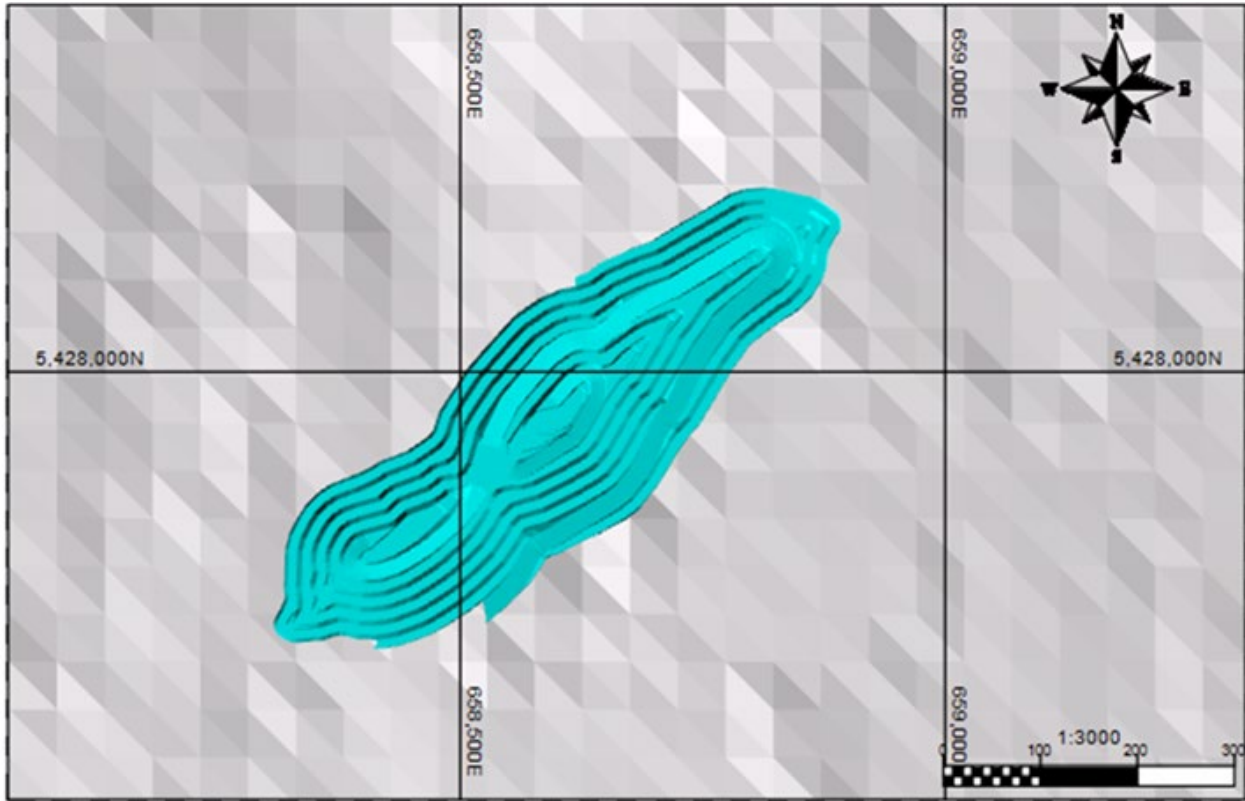


Figure 4.7 Conceptual Iceberg Open Pit Design

The open pits will be developed using 20 m high benches with 9.1 m berm width. Bench faces will be constructed at an angle of 75 degrees, with an overall inter-ramp angle of 54 degrees (refer to Figure 4.8). Ramp systems will be designed with a 10% gradient, ranging in width from 10.8 m for single-lane access to 13.4 m for double-lane access. These ramps are engineered to accommodate 40-tonne haul trucks, each with a width of approximately 3.6 m (refer to Figure 4.9). Haulage and pit operations will be supported by tracked dozers and road graders to maintain pit floors, haul roads, and the WRSF. A primary access road will connect the pit areas to the ore stockpile and the industrial terrace.

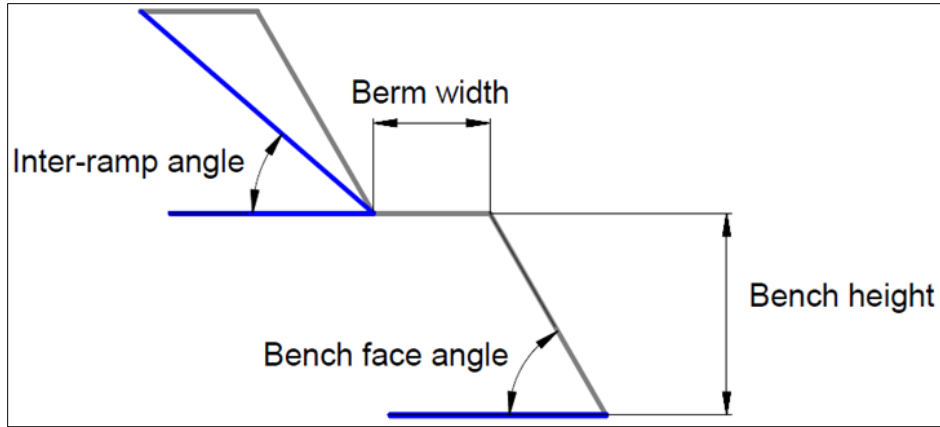


Figure 4.8 Open Pit Design Parameters

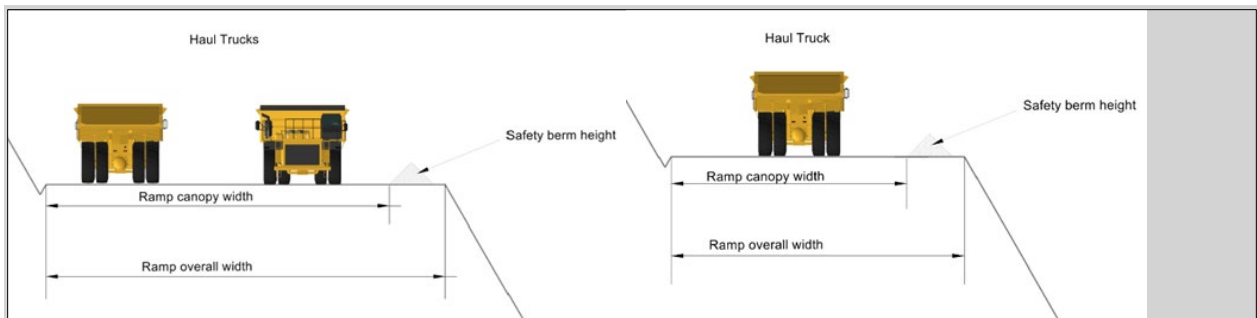


Figure 4.9 Ramp Design Parameters

Ore has been categorized into three groups based on gold grade, as shown in Table 4.10. Mineralized material below cut-off grade will be stockpiled for potential future processing, consistent with the NI 43-101 technical report for the Queensway Gold project filed on September 2, 2025, subject to favorable economic conditions. Mid- and high-grade ore will be directed to the on-site sorting plant, with priority given to high-grade material.

Table 4.10 Queensway Ore

Ore	Cut-off grade (Gold g/t)
MMBCG	<1.6
Mid-grade ore	1.6-3.0
High-grade ore	3.0+

The sorting plant produces four distinct material streams, as outlined in Table 4.11:

- Sorted high-grade ore
- Sorted mid-grade ore
- High-grade sorter rejects
- Mid-grade sorter rejects

Table 4.11 Queensway Material Breakdown

Production Summary	
Open pit ore tonnes above cutoff (kt)	1,906
Open pit average gold grade (g/t)	9.06
Open pit gold ounces contained (koz)	555.2
Strip ratio (waste:ore)	35.8
Mid-grade ore (kt)	699.1
Mid-grade average gold grade (g/t)	2.18
High-grade ore (kt)	1,207
High-grade average gold grade (g/t)	13.05
Mineralized material below cut-off grade (kt)	4,889
Mineralized material below cut-off grade (g/t)	0.67
Open pit waste rock (kt)	58,848
Overburden (kt)	4,447

As shown in Figure 4.10, sorted high-grade ore, sorted mid-grade ore, and high-grade sorter rejects (exceeding the calculated cut-off grades) will be sent to the Pine Cove processing facility. Mid-grade sorter rejects and MMBCG will be stockpiled separately for potential future processing, should economic conditions become favourable.

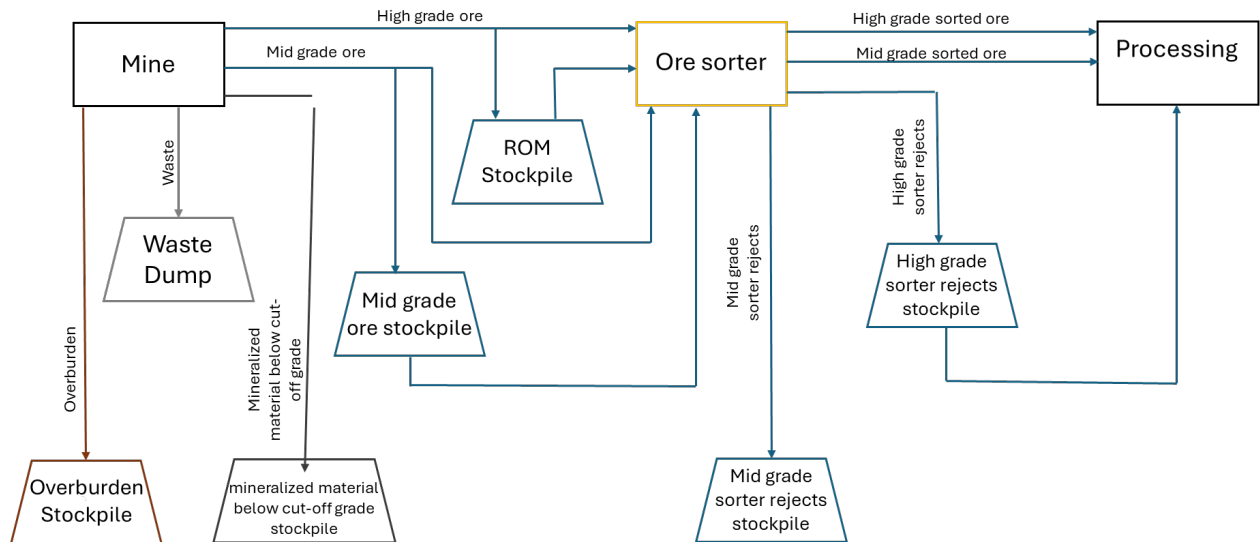


Figure 4.10 Material Movement

To accommodate high-grade ore from the Project, Pine Cove mill will be upgraded to a combined capacity of approximately 1,400 tonnes per day (tpd) (i.e., an 11 percent increase from approved capacity) to process both Hammerdown (700 tpd) and Queensway (700 tpd) ore streams. Proposed modifications are further described in Section 4.6. The proportion of Hammerdown and Queensway ore processed at Pine Cove may vary from the nominal 700 tpd each, depending on operational requirements and ore availability. Additional ore for processing can be sourced from Queensway without affecting the planned mining rate for the Project. Should additional ore be shipped from Queensway to Pine Cove periodically, it would temporarily increase truck movements between the two sites but not affect other planned Project activities or associated effects.

4.4.2 Organics and Overburden Storage Facility

Overburden at the mine site consists primarily of till comprising very loose to compact, silty sand with occasional gravel and cobbles, and clay that occurs both as a thin discontinuous veneer as well as more extensive plain deposits. The average overburden thickness is approximately 2.4 m. Along with glacial deposits, poorly drained organic and peaty soils are common at the mine site, overlying either till or bedrock (GEMTEC 2024c).

Based on the results of ongoing ML/ARD testing (Section 4.1.2.2), stockpiles containing material with potential for ML/ARD will be engineered with appropriate containment and drainage collection systems. Organics and overburden removed during site preparation will be segregated and stored in strategic locations throughout the site and used in rehabilitating various areas of the site during progressive rehabilitation and upon mine closure. Peat, topsoil, and mulched vegetation in the development area will be segregated from the underlying glacial till and stockpiled separately from the glacial till soils.

The location of the overburden storage facility is shown in Figure 4.6. An estimated 4.4 Mt of overburden will be excavated, with a material density of 1.9 tonnes per m³. The facility will cover 45 ha and is designed to hold up to 2.7 cubic megametres (Mm³) of material. Overburden is anticipated to be placed in 5 m lifts, with a 30° face slope and 10 m berms. The overall slope will be 15°, and the facility will reach an approximate height of 45 m.

4.4.3 Waste Rock Storage Facility

The WRSF, estimated to cover an area of approximately 81.0 ha, will be designed to accommodate the waste rock storage requirements of the open pits. The planned total capacity of the waste rock facility is 27.2 Mm³, accounting for material swell, with flexibility to expand through additional lifts if required. This capacity exceeds the projected volume of waste rock from the open pits, which is estimated at 27.1 Mm³.

The WRSF will be a permanent engineered structure designed to safely contain waste rock generated during open pit mining. It is anticipated to be constructed in 15 m lifts, with each lift featuring a 35° face angle and 10 m-wide berms. This configuration results in an overall slope angle of approximately 25.5°, which has been selected to maintain long-term slope stability under both operational and closure conditions.

The facility will reach a final height of approximately 85 m. Its design incorporates geotechnical considerations to support safe containment and reduce environmental risk. The facility will also be integrated into the overall site layout to allow for progressive rehabilitation.

ML/ARD testing carried out on waste rock to date indicates that a proportion of waste rock (~15%) may be PAG, and that the ML/ARD potential of the waste rock varies based on prospect and lithology (ongoing testwork). The PAG portion of waste rock from the Keats pit is currently planned to be placed subaqueously in the mined-out Iceberg pit as it is mined to limit acid generation; the Iceberg pit will naturally fill at closure for long-term containment as a pit lake feature (Section 4.5.4).

New Found Gold considered a number of factors when finalizing the footprint of the WRSF, including avoidance of fish habitat and wetland areas, and maintenance of the footprint and associated drainage within the sub-watershed that drains toward the Gander River. Drainage from the WRSF will be collected with a surrounding engineered drainage ditch and settling pond system for sediment control and site water treatment. Groundwater seepage from the WRSF may need to be intercepted before discharging to local surface water receivers and will be collected by interceptor wells or deep sumps that pump to the settling pond system. Further detail on site water management is found in Section 4.4.10.

Drainage control for the WRSF will reduce run-on and provide adequate collection of runoff. Management of drainage will continue into the closure phase, if required. Access to the WRSF will be managed as part of the site-wide security control measures.

4.4.4 Run-of-Mine Pad

The estimated footprint of the run-of-mine (RoM) pad, including the mineralized material stockpiles, and sorter reject piles is approximately 25.4 ha. The RoM pad will be constructed using non-PAG waste rock, with a 500-mm base layer of coarse material greater than 112 mm and a 150 mm capping layer of finer material less than 112 mm to provide structural stability and facilitate drainage.

Material will be organized into five distinct stockpiles (Figure 4.6): MMBCG, mid-grade ore, mid-grade sorter rejects, high-grade sorter rejects, and a stockpile designated to hold approximately one week's worth of RoM material. Rejected material from the sorting plant will be placed in their respective mid- and high-grade reject stockpiles, while MMBCG and mid-grade ore will be stockpiled separately.

Over the life of the mine, approximately 4.8 Mt of MMBCG and up to 0.51 Mt of mid-grade ore are expected to be stockpiled, along with 0.35 Mt of mid-grade sorted rejects and up to 0.34 Mt of high-grade sorted rejects. The stockpiles of high-grade sorted rejects and mid-grade ore are expected to be processed at the Pine Cove processing facility before the end of the Project. The mid-grade sorted rejects and MMBCG will be stockpiled for potential future processing consistent with NI 43-101 technical report for the Queensway Gold project filed on September 2, 2025; if no such processing occurs, the mid-grade ore will remain in place and be rehabilitated through progressive or closure rehabilitation, and the MMBCG will be relocated to the mined-out Keats pit (90%) and the Iceberg pit (10%) as part of rehabilitation and closure (Section 4.5.4).

Engineered ditching constructed around the RoM pad will capture excess surface runoff and direct it to a settling pond. Further detail on site water management is found in Section 4.4.10.

The stockpile for ore designated for processing will have a maximum capacity of 0.51 Mt. This stockpile is strategically designed to optimize feed grade during the initial years of operation and to facilitate the processing of lower-grade material toward the end of the mine life. Annual estimated additions to and withdrawals from the stockpile are detailed in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Stockpile Estimated Yearly Addition and Withdraw

	Year of Operation						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total stockpiled mineralized material							
Addition (t)	1,236,821	899,687	1,062,780	715,707	1,004,743	756,986	413,640
Withdraw (t)	-	-	-	213,837	245,952	229,128	162,578
Total tonnage (t)	1,236,821	2,136,508	3,199,289	3,701,159	4,459,951	4,987,809	5,238,870
Mid-grade ore stockpile							
Addition (t)	126,121	148,808	188,361	51,597	-	-	-
Withdraw (t)	-	-	-	-	123,182	229,128	162,578
Total tonnage (t)	126,121	74,929	463,290	514,888	391,706	162,578	-
Mid grade sorter rejects stockpile							
Addition (t)	-	-	-	-	92,080	158,323	99,135
Withdraw (t)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total tonnage (t)	-	-	-	-	92,080	250,403	349,538
High grade sorter rejects stockpile							
Addition (t)	52,137	90,351	194,119	-	-	-	-
Withdraw (t)	-	-	-	213,837	122,770	-	-
Total tonnage (t)	52,137	142,488	336,606	122,770	-	-	-
Mineralized material below cut-off grade							
Addition (t)	1,058,564	660,528	680,301	664,110	912,663	598,662	314,505
Withdraw (t)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total tonnage (t)	1,058,564	1,719,092	2,399,392	3,063,502	3,976,165	4,574,827	4,889,332

4.4.5 Crushing and Sorting Plant

Ore will be crushed at site (Figure 4.11 for an example modular crushing plant) and possibly sorted/pre-concentrated (Section 4.5.3.2) prior to being trucked off site for processing at an existing processing facility. Pre-concentration or “ore sorting” is a technology that separates ore from waste rock using sensors together with compressed air jets (Figure 4.12). There are no chemicals used in this process. New Found Gold has been testing this innovative technology as part of its ongoing studies, and a final decision will be based on this ongoing testwork.

Further information on these two options is provided below.



Figure 4.11 Example of a Modular Crushing Plant

Pending a final decision based on ongoing testwork, New Found Gold plans to pre-concentrate RoM material on site using advanced particle sorting technology. This advanced particle sorting technology would produce feed for the Pine Cove processing facility at a rate of approximately 700 tpd. The sorting process is expected to reject approximately 50% of the mined material as mineralized material, low-sulphide waste rock, while recovering approximately 75% of the gold contained in the sorted stream.

This dry sorting method (Figure 4.12) reduces mine dilution and produces a higher-grade, lower-volume mill feed. It also supports a lower cut-off grade, enabling recovery of additional resources from the open pits. Reducing the volume of material sent for processing offers several benefits, including lower haulage costs, reduced processing of marginal material, and decreased water use. Additionally, it reduces highway truck traffic, effluent generation, and tailings storage requirements at the Pine Cove processing facility, resulting in lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The rejects from the sorting plant will be stockpiled separately for potential future processing; if no such processing occurs, the sorter rejects will remain in place and be rehabilitated through progressive or closure rehabilitation, and the MMBCG will be relocated to the mined-out Keats pit as part of rehabilitation and closure (refer to Section 4.5.4).



Figure 4.12 Pre-Concentration Equipment

The pre-concentration processing method will include a crushing and screening/sorting circuit, as follows:

- Primary Crushing: A vibrating grizzly feeder and jaw crusher in open circuit, producing a final product P80 of approximately 57 mm.
- Secondary Crushing: Single-stage cone crusher in closed circuit with a primary single deck vibrating screen, producing a final product P80 of approximately 30 mm.
- Screening: A primary screen in closed circuit with the secondary crusher followed by a secondary screen that will receive the primary screen undersize to screen out the fines, (this may also be achieved by a single double-deck screen and will be under the contractor's purvey).
- Sorting: Two sorting machines in series acting as a rougher and scavenger will produce both waste material and product.
- Crushed Material Stockpile: Two stockpiles will be produced from the sorting facility: one for product to be trucked off site for further processing at an existing mill, and the other re-handled to either the waste rock or MMBCG stockpiles (Figure 4.6).

This processing technology has been successfully used in a number of operating mines around the world and in Canada including KGHM Sudbury Operations and New Gold's New Alton Mine in Kamloops, British Columbia and is currently permitted at Hammerdown Mine in NL. A conceptual pre-concentration process flowsheet is presented in Figure 4.13.

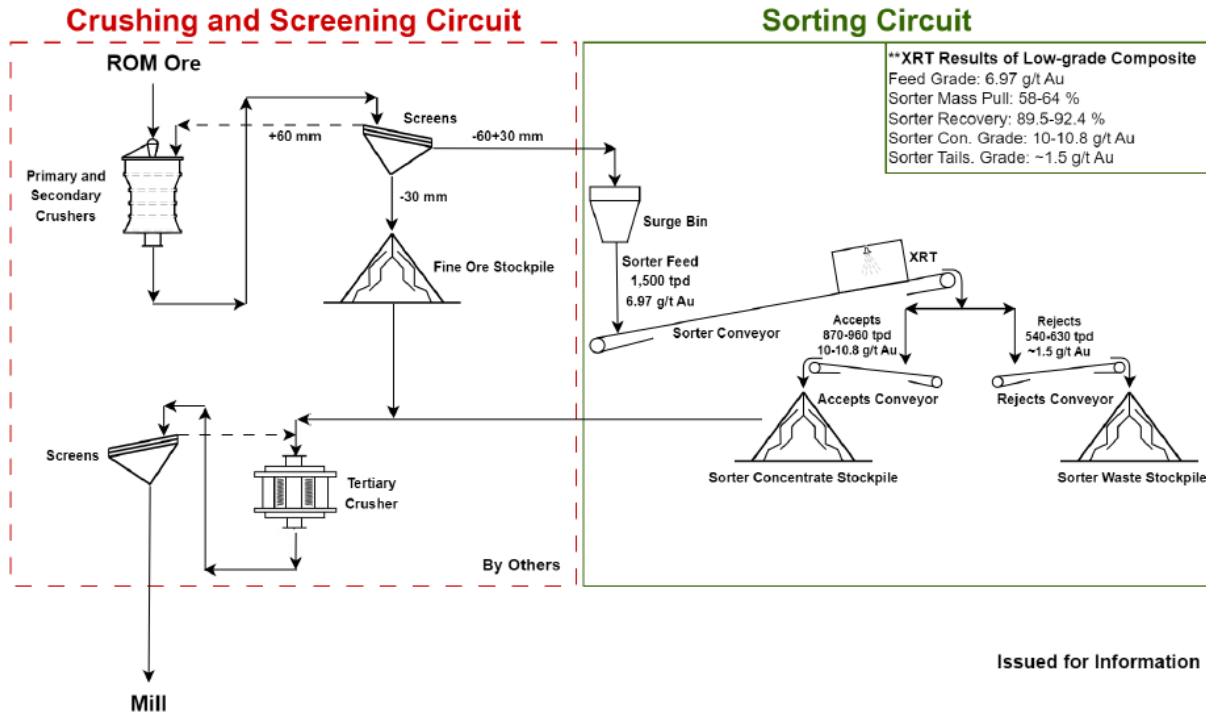


Figure 4.13 Pre-Concentration Flowsheet

Use of the preferred method of on-site sorting and pre-concentration is dependent on ongoing testwork. Should this option not be feasible, ore would still be crushed on site and trucked to the Pine Cove processing facility. As a final determination on this option has not been made, both options are discussed in this Environmental Registration (e.g., truck volumes for both options are presented).

4.4.6 Roads

The Project includes the development of new road infrastructure to support safe and efficient access and internal connectivity across the mine site. This includes:

- A new site access road from the TCH will be designed in coordination with the NL Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (NLDTI). This road will serve as the primary access for light vehicles, including employee transportation, supply deliveries, and highway truck haulage of ore to the Pine Cove processing facility.
- The site access road has been strategically located to reduce interaction between light vehicles and mine haulage trucks, consistent with best practices for safe mine operations. The road will intersect the T’Railway, and safety features will be incorporated in consultation with relevant authorities.
- A network of new haul roads will be constructed within the Project site to connect key infrastructure components, including the open pits, WRSF, overburden storage facility, crushing and sorting plant, and other operational areas.

Water management infrastructure associated with road construction will include culverts, drainage ditches, and erosion control features. These components will be designed to maintain natural hydrology, support fish passage at watercourse crossings, and reduce sedimentation into adjacent aquatic environments.

Road dimensions and classifications are summarized in Table 4.13, including major, collector, and minor haul roads, as well as the site access road.

Table 4.13 Proposed Road Dimensions

Proposed Road Type	Width (m)	Length (m)
Haul Roads – Major	30	6,380
Site Access Road	15	1,345

4.4.7 Electrical and Communications Infrastructure

Power and communication lines currently transverse the Project Area (Figure 4.14). Two parallel 138 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission lines run from Cobbs Pond and from Gander NL Hydro substations, and 69 kV and telecommunication lines run along the TCH. These lines will require relocation to the north of the Project Area prior to the start of mining the Iceberg pit. A preliminary route is shown on Figure 4.14, but siting will be confirmed in consideration of ongoing condemnation drilling results and NL Hydro and Newfoundland Power’s operational requirements. NL Hydro and Newfoundland Power will undertake the engineering design, consultation, permitting, and relocation of these lines. As this work will be undertaken independently by NL Hydro and Newfoundland Power under separate planning and approval processes, it is not considered a component of this Project for the purposes of this EA. New Found Gold is also engaging with Bell Aliant to have the buried fibre optic cable that occurs in the existing RoW relocated. Relocation of transmission and communications infrastructure will be completed at New Found Gold’s expense.

As part of the Project scope, new electrical and communications infrastructure will be installed at the site to support mining operations and site-wide connectivity. The existing transmission line which approaches the Project Area from the east will be maintained and will connect to a new substation to be located at the industrial terrace. New Found Gold has submitted a power assessment application to NL Hydro. The estimated electrical demand for the Project ranges from approximately 2,275 kilovolt-amperes (kVA) during summer peak conditions to 2,325 kVA during winter peak. Based on current information, the existing capacity of NL Hydro’s grid is considered adequate to meet the Project’s power requirements.

\\ca0151-ppf5501\work_group\1214\active\12141759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

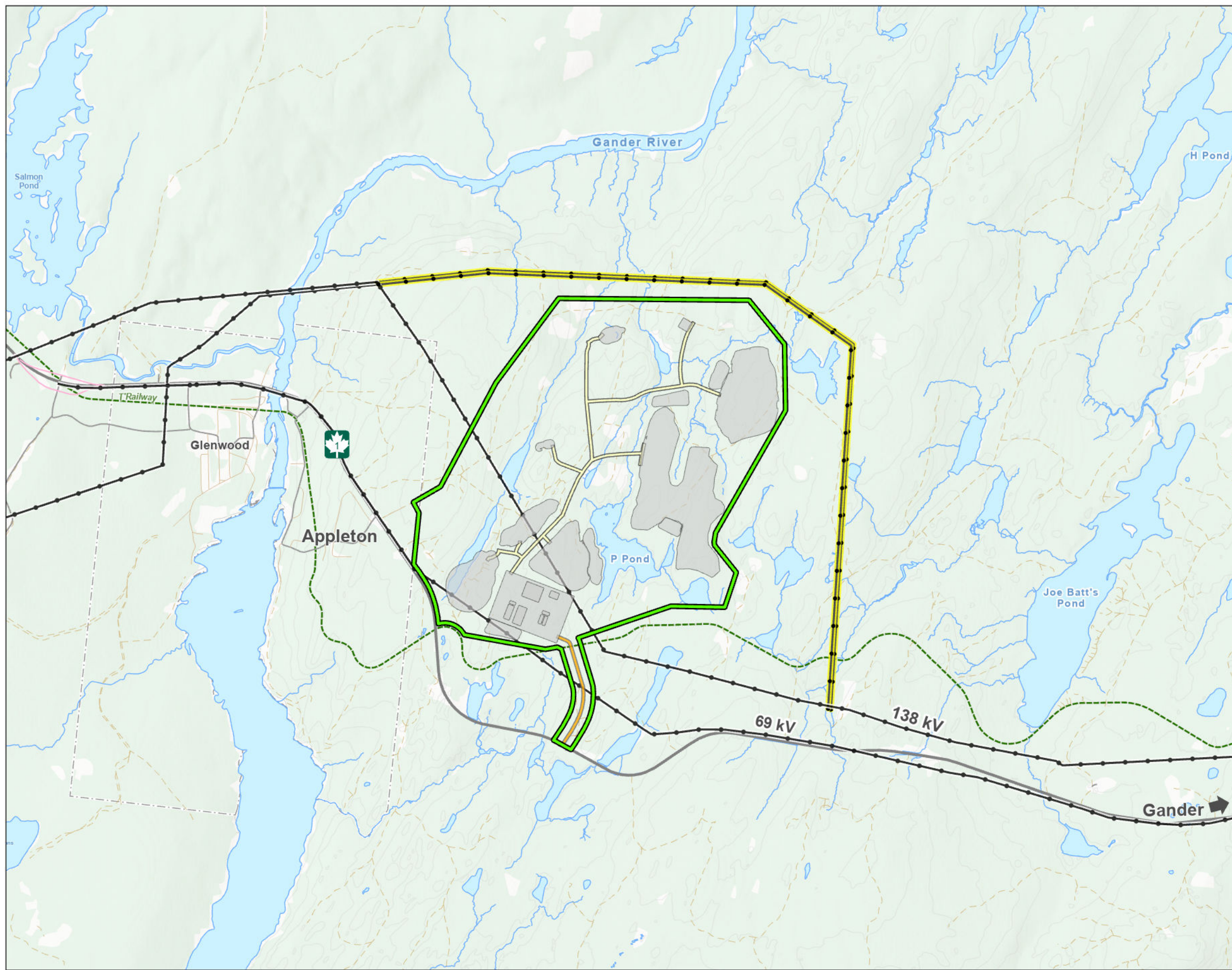


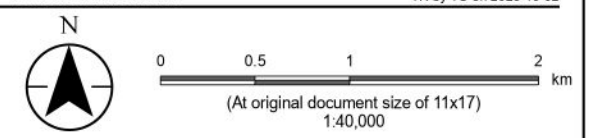
Figure No. 4.14
Title Existing and Proposed Powerline Routes

Client/Project 121418510_118

New Found Gold Corp.
Queensway Gold Project

Project Location North Gander Lake
Newfoundland and Labrador

Prepared by NW on 2025-10-01
QR by PM on 2028-04-14
TR by TO on 2025-10-02



- Project Area
- Proposed Project Layout**
 - Haul Road
 - Access Road
 - Proposed Site Features
- Existing Infrastructure**
 - Transmission Line
 - Proposed Transmission Line (Re-routing)
 - Highway
 - Collector
 - Local / Street
 - Ramp
 - Resource Road / Trail
 - NL T'Railway Provincial Park
- Wetlands and Waterways**
 - Watercourse
 - Waterbody
- Administrative Boundaries**
 - Municipal Boundary



Notes

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
- Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec
- Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada; Additional topographic basemapping from Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS



Additional infrastructure to be installed at the Project site includes telecommunications systems and a site-wide security network. External communications services will be delivered via a local provider, with cabling aligned along the utility powerline corridor. The Project will be equipped with internet and telephone services to support both internal and external communications. These services will also enable the deployment of automated systems for operational control, fire detection and alarm, surveillance cameras, and site security.

An information technology system will be established to support administrative functions. A central server, network switches, and an ethernet-based local area network will be installed within the main on-site office, with connectivity extended to other operational areas as required.

4.4.8 Buildings and Supporting Infrastructure

Several modular buildings (Figure 4.6) will be installed in the vicinity of the sorting plant to service the mine operations. The following buildings will be required:

- Office and dry facility
- Maintenance facility
- Warehouse
- Security gate and fence
- Truck weigh scale
- Fuel island

Where feasible, modular buildings will be used to reduce adverse environmental impacts and facilitate straightforward removal during decommissioning and closure. Office and dry facilities will be housed in trailer units. The maintenance facility and warehouse will be constructed as more permanent structures, featuring a concrete slab foundation, overhead crane, and equipment consistent with a full-service repair shop. The facility will include designated bays for equipment washing and maintenance, as well as a warehouse for small parts storage. Larger components will be stored in adjacent modular units located in close proximity to the main facility.

There will be a fence to control access to key entry points throughout the Project site as required, including at the electrical substation, and the explosives storage area.

A portable, heavy duty truck scale will be located on the site access road near the crushing and sorting plant for weighing the ore transfer trucks prior to their departure for processing at Pine Cove.

The fuel and lube station will be located in close proximity to the maintenance facility. Fuel will be stored in above ground, double-walled tanks, and safety mitigation measures, including containment and spill prevention required by provincial permitting, will be followed. Fuels that may be required at the Project site include diesel, gasoline, and propane. The number and capacity of storage tanks will be determined in detailed design. The electrical power will be brought to this location to provide power for the lighting, control, and motorization of the fuel station.

4.4.9 Explosives Storage Area

The explosives storage area will be located at the Project site away from key infrastructure and exposed sites (Figure 4.6), in accordance with the federal Separation Distances for Explosives guidelines issued by the Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD 2025) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). The Explosives Regulatory Division guidelines define the required separation distances between potential explosion sites and exposed sites. Bulk explosives, including the explosive storage facilities, explosives delivery and loading trucks, and loading and firing of the blasts will be managed by a licensed explosives contractor. A Blast Management Plan will be developed by New Found Gold and its selected, licenced blasting contractor(s) to provide direction for the safe storage, handling and use of explosives and explosive components at the Project site, to address the safety of the public and Project personnel, and protection of both the environment and Project components.

Packaged and initiating explosives will be stored in approved magazines which will comply with the requirements of NRCan's *Explosives Regulations, 2013* and the guidance outlined in G06-08: Storage of Explosives (ERD 2025; Draft for Consultation, May 2025). Access to the explosives storage area will be secured and controlled. In this way, explosives will be stored such that they do not present a hazard to people or property in the vicinity. The explosives and caps magazines will be included in the explosive supplier package.

Bulk emulsion matrix will be stored on site in a heated tank approved for that use. Bulk ammonium nitrate storage may also be required depending on the product to be loaded. Bulk explosives will be stored at a distance away from the magazines as required by the guidelines mentioned above.

Explosives will be handled by personnel who are trained, authorized and licensed. Standard Operating Procedures will be in place to cover use of explosives, including transporting, loading, blast clearance, blast guarding, blast firing, post-blast inspections, secondary blasting, misfires, and other activities related to blasting. Additional information on open pit blasting is included in Section 4.5.3.1.

4.4.10 Water Management

The Project is located in three separate sub-watershed areas that drain to either the Gander River or Gander Lake (Figure 4.15). This setting requires careful consideration of surface water management at the site, and the potential effects of site activities on groundwater. Primary mine infrastructure, including the pits, stockpiles, WRSF, and crushing and sorting plant, is located within a single sub-watershed (Herman's Pond) that flows to the Gander River (downstream of Gander Lake). Only the site access road and a small portion of the industrial terrace extend into an area that flows toward Gander Lake; however, drainage from the industrial terrace will be directed towards the Herman's Pond sub-watershed. Note that siting of mine infrastructure also avoids the Joe Batt's Pond watershed.

To gain a better understanding of the hydrological and hydrogeological regimes of the area, a number of hydrological and hydrogeological baseline investigations have been undertaken (GEMTEC 2023c, 2023d, 2024c, 2024d; Stantec 2025a, 2025b). Refer to Section 6.1 for more details on baseline studies. A Water Management Plan (WaMP) for the Project site has been developed based on detailed mine planning and results of those baseline investigations to limit impacts to the surrounding environment and nearby communities (Appendix 4.A).

\\ca01511-ppf5501\work_group\1214\active\12141759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

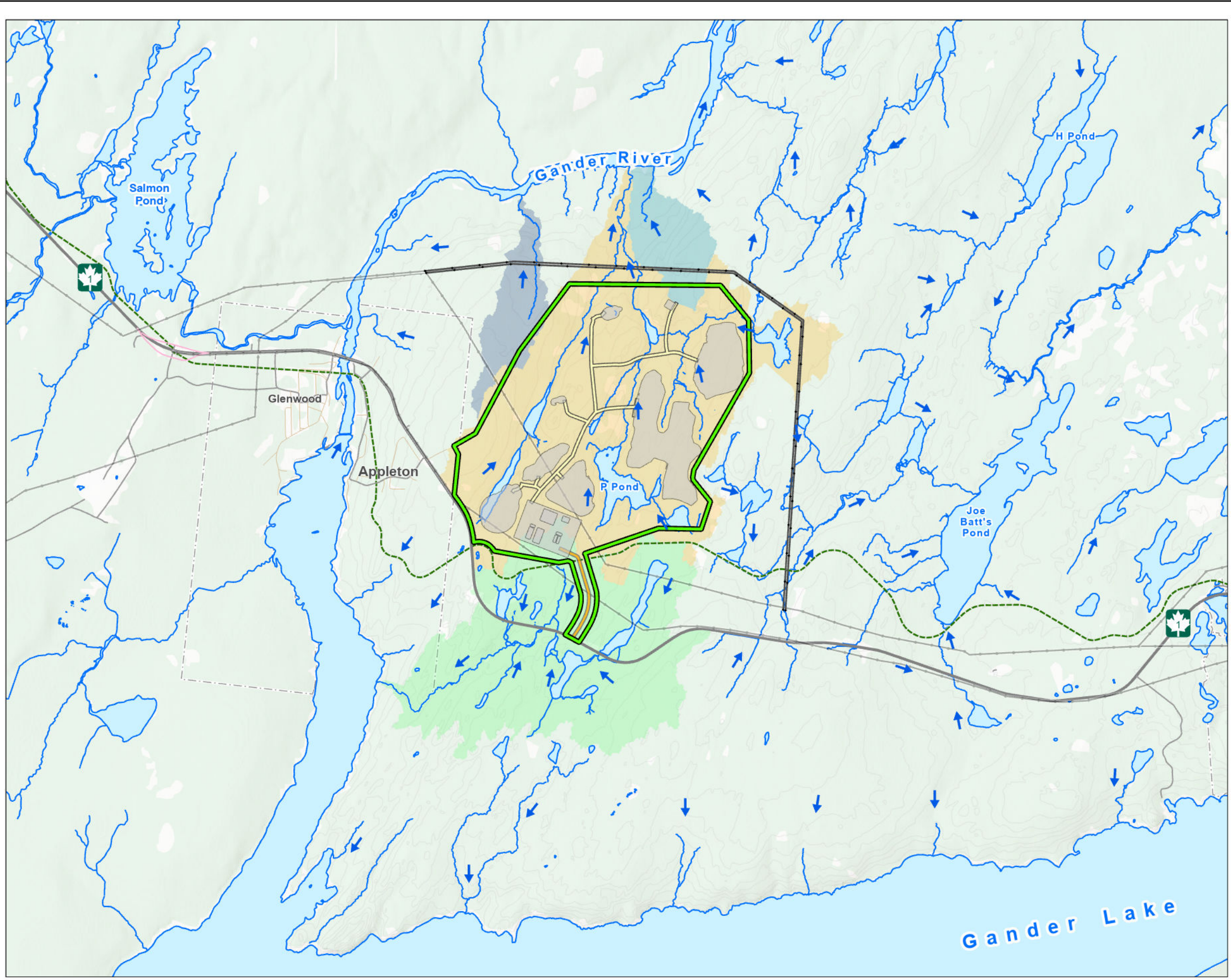
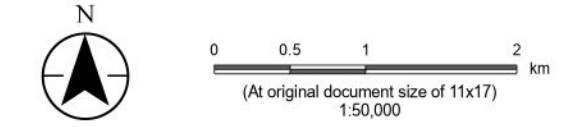


Figure No. **4.15**
 Title **Watersheds that Overlap the Project Area**

Client/Project 121418510_120
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project
 Project Location North Gander Lake Newfoundland and Labrador
 Prepared by NW on 2025-10-02
 QR by PM on 2028-04-14
 TR by TO on 2025-10-02



- Project Area
- Proposed Project Layout**
- Access Road
- Haul Road
- Proposed Site Features
- Watershed Delineation**
- GLT1 (Gander Lake Tributary 1)
- GRT1 (Gander River Tributary 1)
- GRT2 (Gander River Tributary 2)
- HP (Hermans Pond)
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Line (Re-routing)
- Highway
- Collector
- Local / Street
- Ramp
- NL T'Railway
- Provincial Park
- Wetlands and Waterways**
- Watercourse
- Flow Direction
- Waterbody
- Other Features**
- Contour (10 m)
- Municipal Boundary



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada; Additional topographic basemapping from Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS



4.4.10.1 Water Intake and Distribution

There will be various water use requirements at the Project site over the LoM. New Found Gold plans to source raw water for processing (mainly for dust suppression) and non-potable domestic use (e.g., flushing toilets) from the settling pond system to be designed for the site. A pumping station will be installed near the primary settling pond and housed in an insulated container. Water will be pumped from there via a four-inch buried high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe to water storage tanks that will be located close to the crushing and sorting plant. From the water storage tanks, water will be distributed via buried HDPE pipes to the office and dry facility, the garage and warehouse. Additional supply will be available for fire fighting.

As part of Project development, the need for additional water and a freshwater intake location is being assessed. To date, a specific site has not been selected; however, the intake location would be placed in a local waterbody and be outfitted with appropriate equipment (e.g., fish screen) to meet permitting requirements. Bottled potable water will be supplied to the Project site by local vendors for consumption. A source of potable water for showers and hand washing is still under consideration, which could include a groundwater well.

4.4.10.2 Water Management Infrastructure

Surface runoff and runoff from infrastructure will be directed to settling ponds via drainage ditches, where feasible. Sumps located at the lowest elevation of the open pits will collect groundwater and surface water runoff and pump to the settling ponds as needed. Water collected from the RoM pad, the WRSF, the overburden storage facility, and the open pits will be routed to the settling ponds prior to release from the site. These systems will serve as the primary water treatment facilities. Settling ponds at the site will be designed and sized to hold the 100-year design storm event precipitation flows for the designed catchment area. Overflow water from ponds at the various facilities will be directed to a primary pond near the sorting plant and RoM pad. This primary pond will supply water to the crushing and sorting plant.

Final effluent discharge from the central water treatment pond will be to P Pond and North Herman's Pond, both within the Herman's Pond sub-watershed, prior to emptying into the Gander River (downstream of Gander Lake). The water quality model predicts that the WRSF and RoM pad collected groundwater and surface water will require treatment for arsenic to meet regulatory guidelines or permit conditions. A treatment system will be constructed to treat WRSF and RoM pad sedimentation pond water prior to discharge to the collection pond or discharge points.

A septic system will be installed to service the office and dry trailers.

New Found Gold will also implement appropriate sediment and erosion control measures throughout the site. Liquid discharges from the Project will comply with the provincial *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003* and the federal MDMER. A detailed description of the approach to managing sources of effluent is provided in Section 4.7.4.

4.4.10.3 Water Management Plan

The WaMP describes management features for water quantity and quality relative to surface water runoff, mine contact water, groundwater, freshwater supply, sewage/grey water, and discharge to the receiving environment (Appendix 4.A). For this Project, ‘non-contact water’ is defined as surface runoff resulting from natural precipitation that does not come into contact with mine workings or mined materials. ‘Mine contact water’ refers to runoff that comes in direct contact with ore, waste rock, or terrain where Project infrastructure components are built and/or where mining activity will occur.

The WaMP provides site-wide guidance for water management related practices over the life of the Project and considers key Project interactions and compliance obligations. It incorporates best management practices (BMPs) of current industry practice in NL, and draws on concepts in the document, *Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines* (Environment Canada 2009). The WaMP is considered to be a working document and will be updated throughout the Project life as design stages progress and additional information becomes available.

The WaMP includes specifications and requirements of the following activities and infrastructure:

- Fresh water pumping station
- Collection, diversion, and removal of incident precipitation, direct mine contact runoff, groundwater seepage and direct precipitation into the open pits
- Settling ponds and associated conveyance systems
- Details and mitigation measures relative to dewatering of South Herman’s Pond
- Sewage and grey water systems
- Ditching around the WRSF, overburden storage facility, RoM pad, open pits, and other infrastructure to collect and redirect surface runoff and mine rock pile toe and basal seepage to settling ponds to control suspended solids prior to discharge from the site via a two centralized final discharge points (FDPs)
 - As part of detailed design, a detailed hydrogeological study will be conducted to confirm predicted pile seepage travel times from mine rock pile areas (overburden, waste rock storage facility and ore stockpile) to local surface water receivers, along with a seepage-surface water mixing assessment. Pile perimeter ditch system designs along with potential seepage interceptor well and/or deep sump collection systems will be developed as required to manage pile seepage to local surface water receivers.
- Use of settling ponds or other means for treatment of effluent prior to discharge to the environment in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, including MDMER pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*
- Summary of the surface water and groundwater quality and quantity monitoring throughout mine life phases
- Diversion of clean non-contact runoff away from areas disturbed by mine activities

The WaMP summarizes water management for each phase of the Project's mine life and will be updated as required to reflect the needs of each Project phase. Regulations and guidelines that inform the WaMP include:

- MDMER
- *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003*
- CCME CWQG-FAL
- Guideline for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (Health Canada 2025)

The main components of the WaMP and the objectives are provided in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14 Water Management Plan Objectives

WaMP Component	Objective
Non-contact Surface Runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control suspended solid loading of surface runoff • Avoid the introduction of chemical contaminants in surface runoff
Mine Contact Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if the quality of mine contact water is suitable for reuse as process water or for direct discharge to the environment • Monitor the quality of contact water discharge and compare against applicable guidelines and environmental protection objectives
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the quantity and quality of groundwater inflows into the open pits, and to best manage those inflows
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage efficient surface water use for the Project and manage the discharge • Reduce water inventory requiring management through perimeter berms to divert external non-contact runoff • Provide a dewatering plan for South Herman's Pond, which will be overprinted by two of the open pit footprints
Water Management Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of water management ponds to contain the existing 1:100 year precipitation event and attenuate the climate change 1:100 year precipitation event through the use of a spillway • Design of ditches to convey the existing 1:100 year precipitation event • Use gravity drainage to the extent practicable to reduce operational costs from pumping
Sewage/Grey Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best manage the collection and appropriate treatment of sanitary sewage and grey water
Discharge to the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of FDPs through grading of ditches and the use of a central water management pond for treatment while maintaining the natural conditions of the receiving environment to extent practicable • Discharge contact runoff to north (Gander River) watershed to maintain Gander Lake PPWSA • Monitor the quantity and quality of the discharge in a manner that meets environmental protection objectives

Discharge of excess mine water to the receiving environment will be carried out in accordance with MDMER effluent criteria as well as other mine effluent criteria that may be applicable (e.g., nitrogen species effluent criteria). As the Project advances through permitting and engineering design, additional field investigations will be completed, as required, to further characterize the quantity and quality of the various mine water components in support of the WaMP and the Project water management systems.

Direct precipitation, surface runoff, and groundwater seepage entering the open pit excavations will be captured via in-pit sumps and pumped to the central water treatment pond. The central water treatment pond, located adjacent to the industrial terrace, will additionally receive pumped flows from the four other sedimentation ponds associated with the overburden storage facility, WRSF, and ore stockpile. Final effluent discharge from the central water treatment pond will be to P Pond and Herman's Pond, both within the Herman's Pond sub-watershed. Discharge will be monitored via flow measurement devices that will be housed in the same structure as the pumping equipment.

The footprint of the open pits is estimated to be approximately 38.9 ha, sections of which will overlap parts of South Herman's Pond (P2). Six other watercourse drainage areas (Streams 29, 11, 41, 42, 43, and 44) will be affected by the development of the WRSF with potential reduced surface water runoff flows. To the extent practicable, the watercourses will be returned to pre-development routing at the end of LoM. Figure 4.16 illustrates the location of ponds and watercourses within and outside of the Project footprint.

\\s0151-PPF501\work_group\1214\active\12141759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS_Pro\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

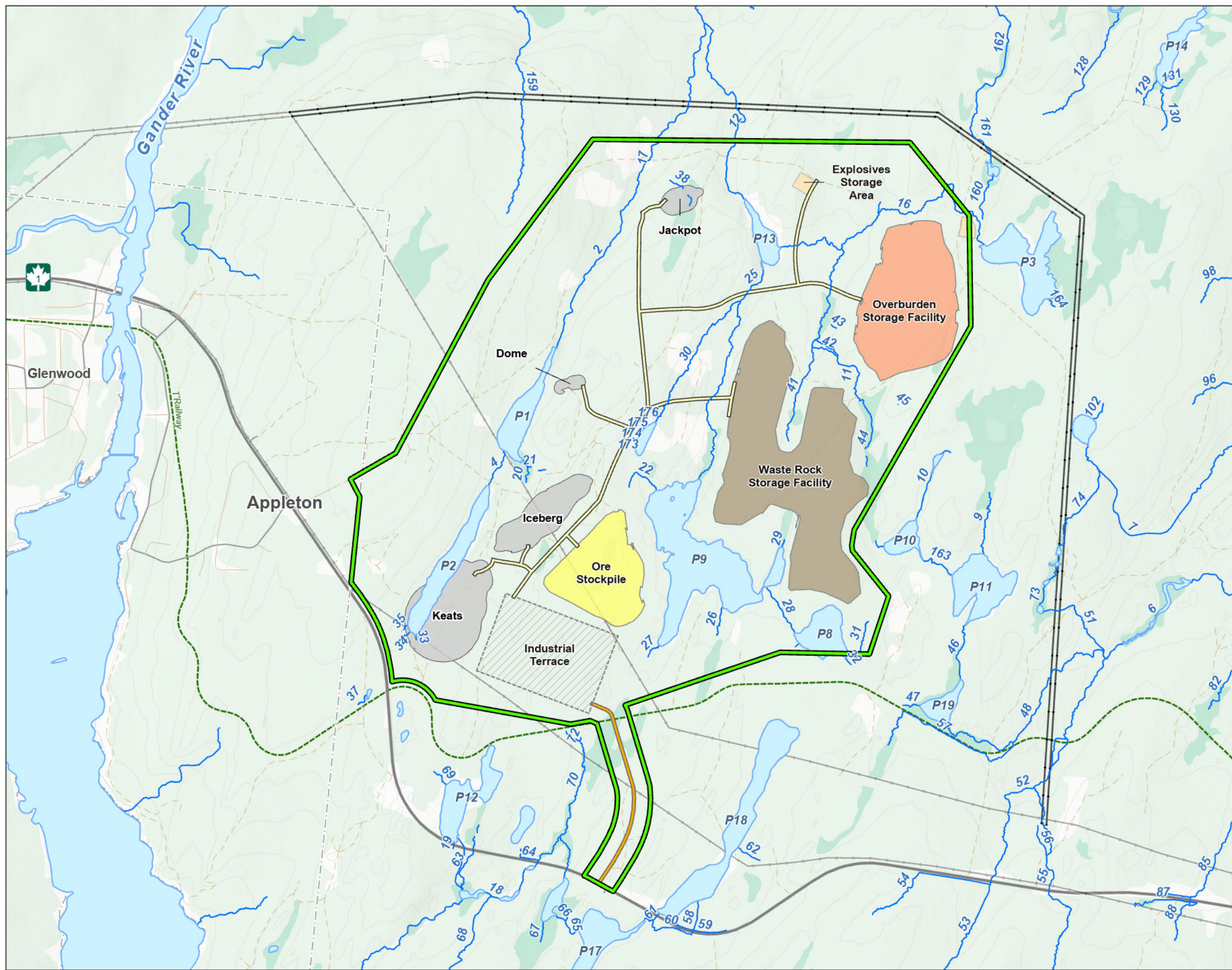
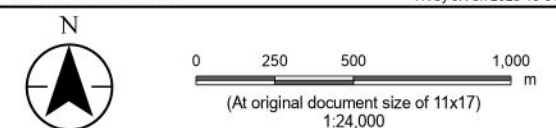


Figure No. **4.16**
Wetlands and Waterways Near the Project

Client/Project 121418298_111
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project
 Project Location North Gander Lake
 Newfoundland and Labrador
 Prepared by NW on 2025-10-01
 QR by PM on 2028-04-16
 TR by JR on 2025-10-01



- Project Area
- Haul Road
- Access Road
- Ore Stockpile
- Overburden Storage Facility
- Waste Rock Storage Facility
- Open Pit
- Other Mine Features
- Industrial Terrace
- Watercourse (Stream ##)
- Waterbody
- Wetland
- Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Line (Re-routing)
- Highway
- Collector
- Local / Street
- Resource Road / Trail
- NL T-Railway Provincial Park
- Contour (10 m)
- Municipal Boundaries



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec; Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada.
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping.



4.5 Project Activities

4.5.1 Early Works Construction Activities

Early works are defined as limited-scope site activities undertaken in advance of full construction to support site readiness, reduce schedule risk, and enable critical path infrastructure. The early works proposed for the Project may include the following:

- Site preparation, including clearing and grubbing of vegetation and topsoil within designated development areas (Keats/Iceberg pit, WRSF, RoM pad, overburden storage facility, industrial terrace area), and overburden stripping and stockpiling of these areas for future progressive and/or closure rehabilitation
- Sourcing the aggregate materials from areas within the open pits required for construction of the roads, the industrial terrace, the WRSF and ore storage pad
- Upgrading/constructing the new site access road from the TCH and some of the on-site haul roads
- Installation and energization of power supply and communications infrastructure
- Mobilization of modular buildings
- Environmental protection measures, including installation of erosion and sediment control measures

The above activities are described in more detail in Section 4.5.2. These activities will be conducted in compliance with applicable regulations and in accordance with environmental protection measures as described in the Project-specific Environmental Protection Plan (EPP). See Section 4.9.2.1 for details on the EPP and further information on the above-noted activities.

New Found Gold currently has eight contiguous lots in the Appleton Industrial Park with a fenced-in core yard, office/support trailers, shipping containers for crushed sample storage and equipment sheds, and heavy equipment parking or laydown areas. This area may be used for additional temporary trailers to provide laydown and staging during early works and construction activities.

4.5.2 Construction

Construction activities will follow guidance and procedures outlined in New Found Gold's EPP, which will build on the current exploration EPP. The EPP will outline BMPs to be followed for construction activities and will be reviewed and approved by government regulators prior to the start of site-specific activities. Construction work will also adhere to other environmental plans and/or constraints (e.g., WaMP, Waste Management Plan [WMP], Environmental Contingency Plan [ECP], and avoiding sensitive times for breeding birds and bats) that are designed to reduce potential adverse effects of construction activities. Refer to Section 4.9.2 for further information on planned environmental management plans.

Construction activities associated with the Project are described below. As indicated in Section 4.5.1, some of these activities may be conducted as part of early works.

4.5.2.1 Site Preparation and Earthworks

Site preparation will involve clearing brush, shrubs, and trees, along with the removal and stockpiling of organic material and overburden within designated development areas that were not cleared during Early Works. Organic-rich material (e.g., vegetation and topsoil) will be recovered for use in progressive and final rehabilitation. Road construction and upgrades, ditching, and other erosion and water management measures will also be undertaken. Work will be conducted in accordance with applicable cutting permits and will follow regulatory requirements, including, for example, seasonal restrictions related to breeding birds and bats.

Earthworks to support infrastructure development will include excavation, placement of structural fill, and grading to facilitate construction and installation activities. These activities will be concentrated in key areas such as the industrial terrace and RoM pad locations. Where feasible, granular backfill material will be sourced from chemically stable or non-PAG waste rock produced during construction of the open pits. Earthworks related to pit development, including drilling and blasting, will commence following overburden removal in alignment with the site development plan. A mobile crusher may be used temporarily in the Keats pit to produce structural fill for infrastructure construction, such as roads and pads.

While the current footprint of the Project is ~270 ha, the assessment has conservatively assumed that the full Project Area (~985 ha) will be cleared. This conservative assumption allows for operational flexibility, as it is likely that the Project footprint will need to be refined or adjusted as detailed design of the Project progresses (e.g., the need for additional laydown area is identified, the sizing of a sedimentation pond needs to be adjusted, or a component footprint needs to be adjusted based on geotechnical considerations).

4.5.2.2 Road Construction/Upgrading

Road construction and upgrades will be undertaken as part of site development. A phased approach may be taken, whereby initial 18-m roads are expanded out as construction material becomes available.

Activities will include:

- Construction of the site access road from the TCH, including clearing, grading, surfacing, and the installation of safety features at both the T'Railway crossing and the TCH intersection.
- Construction of internal haul roads to connect operational areas, including the open pits, WRSF, overburden storage facility, crushing and sorting plant, and other infrastructure. These roads will be constructed to conservative width standards and designed to maintain clear lines of sight, reducing the risk of collisions between heavy equipment, haul trucks, and light vehicles.
- Installation of watercourse crossings, including appropriately sized and aligned culverts to maintain fish passage. Stream crossing activities will be subject to applicable regulatory approvals prior to commencement.
- Upgrades at the TCH intersection, where haul trucks will exit the site to transport ore to the Pine Cove processing facility. New Found Gold has engaged with NLDTI with respect to the engineering design and construction of the planned upgrades and will obtain the required approvals and permits prior to construction.
- Development and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan, which will be regularly updated and communicated to employees and contractors to facilitate safe vehicle movement throughout the site.

Water management measures will be integrated into road construction activities to protect aquatic environments and maintain natural drainage patterns. Culverts will be installed to support fish passage, and erosion and sediment control measures (e.g., silt fencing, check dams) will be implemented prior to ground disturbance. Surface water runoff from roads will be managed through engineered drainage systems to prevent uncontrolled discharge into nearby water bodies. Water management activities will comply with applicable regulatory requirements, and necessary permits will be obtained prior to installation.

These activities will be sequenced to align with overall site development and infrastructure installation and will be carried out in accordance with applicable environmental and safety standards.

4.5.2.3 Site Power Supply and Communications Infrastructure

Installation of electrical and communications infrastructure will be undertaken to support operational requirements across the Project site. A new substation will be constructed to receive power from the existing NL Hydro transmission line. This substation will transform the incoming 25 kV supply to lower voltages suitable for distribution to mining equipment, processing facilities, administrative buildings, and other site infrastructure. Electrical distribution lines will be installed to connect the substation to key components of the Project.

Communications infrastructure will also be installed to support operational coordination, safety systems, and administrative functions. Fibre optic and/or wireless systems will be deployed to establish connectivity between field operations, control rooms, and site offices, with integration to external networks for data transmission and emergency communications. Installation activities will be carried out in accordance with applicable codes, standards, and permitting requirements, and will be sequenced to align with broader site development and infrastructure construction timelines.

4.5.2.4 Dewatering of South Herman's Pond

As part of site preparation and open pit development, dewatering of South Herman's Pond (P2) will be required to facilitate mining activities in the Keats pit area. Dewatering will be conducted in accordance with applicable provincial and federal regulations and will follow BMPs to protect downstream aquatic environments. Additional information on dewatering is included in the WaMP (Appendix 4.A)

Dewatering will be carried out using temporary pumping infrastructure, with water directed to a sediment control system (e.g., settling pond) prior to discharge. Discharge locations will be selected to maintain natural hydraulic conditions in the receiving environment and avoid erosion or sedimentation. Mitigation measures will be in place to manage suspended solids and potential contaminants, and may include silt curtains, flow control structures, and adaptive discharge management, as required.

Fish and fish habitat assessments have confirmed the presence of fish-bearing streams downstream of South Herman's Pond. Fish salvage operations will be conducted as required, under the direction of qualified aquatic specialists and in consultation with DFO. Initial dewatering activities will be scheduled to avoid sensitive periods for aquatic life, to the extent practically feasible.

4.5.2.5 Installation of Infrastructure and Equipment

Following site preparation and earthworks, infrastructure will be installed in accordance with applicable permit conditions and regulatory requirements.

The crushing and sorting plant will be installed, as will temporary modular structures including office and dry facilities, a gatehouse, weigh scale, explosives magazine, site entrance gate, and fencing where required. Fencing will be strategically placed based on operational and safety considerations, rather than enclosing the entire site perimeter.

4.5.2.6 Construction-Related Traffic

Construction will require the movement of personnel, equipment, and materials to and from the site. Traffic volumes will vary depending on the phase of construction, with peak activity expected during site preparation and installation of major infrastructure components. Traffic sources during construction will include delivery of construction materials (e.g., structural steel, concrete, fuel); mobilization of heavy equipment (e.g., excavators, haul trucks, cranes); transport of modular buildings and pre-fabricated components; and daily commuting of construction personnel and contractors.

The primary access route will be via existing provincial highways and local roads, and then along the designated site access road. Oversized loads will be scheduled in coordination with NLDTI and local authorities to reduce disruption.

It is estimated that approximately 80 passenger vehicles will be coming to site for dayshift throughout the week and roughly approximately 40 passenger vehicles for night shift. Traffic volumes will increase when rotations change or during day and night shift changes. Carpooling and shuttle stations may be established at key locations, to bus workers and to encourage carpooling. Transport requirements will be reviewed throughout the site preparation and construction phase to identify opportunities to reduce traffic volumes and the overall carbon footprint of the Project.

On the Project site, construction equipment will operate in some areas 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, clearing timber, stripping and grubbing, and grading the site. Various types of equipment will be located throughout the Project site at different times.

4.5.3 Operation

4.5.3.1 Open Pit Mining

Following pre-stripping activities of the designated open pit areas, the deposits will be mined, targeting the deposits with the highest gold grades first.

Mining will be carried out using conventional open pit methods, including drilling using conventional production drills, blasting using bulk emulsion, and loading and hauling operations performed with hydraulic shovel, front end loader, and haul trucks. The production equipment will be supported by bulldozers, graders, and water trucks.

RoM ore will be placed in a stockpile and fed into a crusher using a front-end loader. RoM ore will be crushed to 80% passing 6 mm and placed in a feed stockpile adjacent to the crushing and sorting plant. Note that the information presented in this section is based on sorting and pre-concentration occurring on site, which is considered a more conservative assumption with respect to equipment use and activity.

The planned production schedule during operation is outlined in Table 4.15, Figure 4.17, and Figure 4.18.

Table 4.15 Planned Production Schedule for the Project

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Mid-grade ore (t)	126,121	148,808	188,361.03	51,597	60,978	87,519	35,691
High grade ore (t)	179,887	345,851	449,619	41,663	40,650	97,177	52,184
Waste (t)	9,112,818	10,601,316	9,750,533	12,068,454	12,399,985	8,042,120	1,761,882
Overburden (t)	1,084,945	911,869	2,112,239	337,939	1,084,945	911,869	2,112,239
Total tonnage (t)	10,503,771	12,007,844	12,500,752	12,499,654	12,501,614	8,226,816	1,849,757
Strip ratio	33.3	23.3	18.6	133.0	122.0	43.5	20.0

Total tonnes mined - by material type

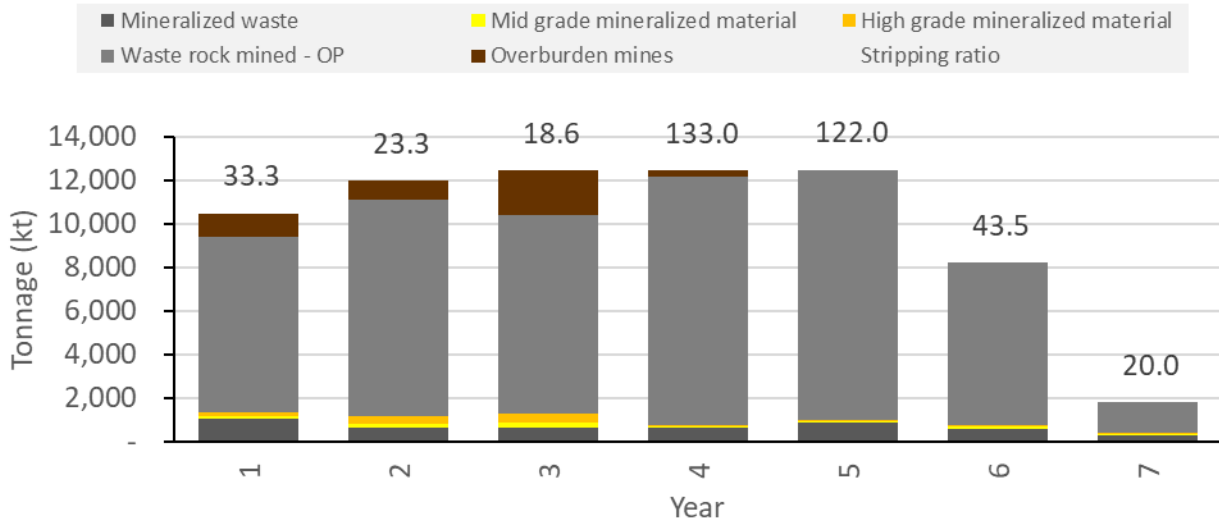


Figure 4.17 Total Tonnes Mined - by Material Type

Total tonnes mined - by zone

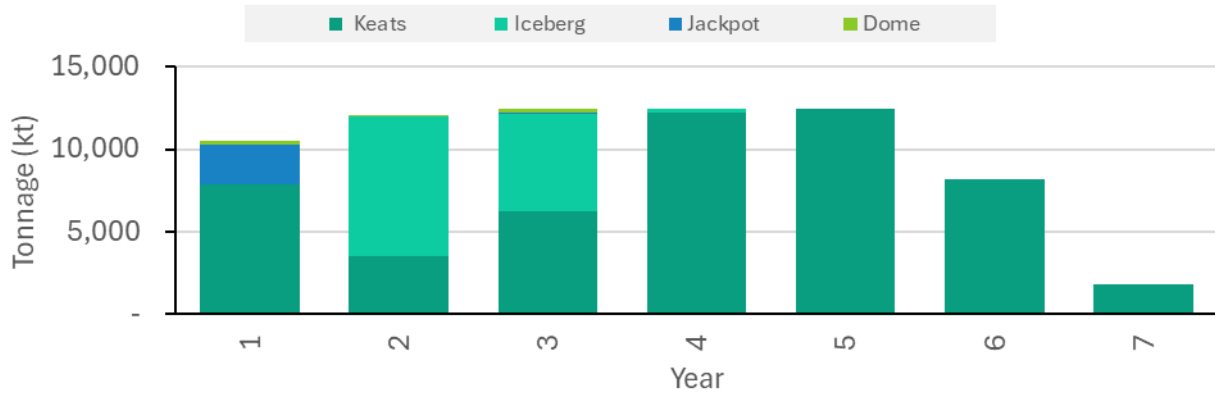


Figure 4.18 Total Tonnes Mined - by Zone

Tables 4.16 and 4.17 present the mining and the support equipment during operation.

Table 4.16 Mining Fleet Per Year

Equipment	Type	Fleet Size per Year						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40 t Haul Truck	Off-Highway Trucks	13	17	17	17	20	16	5
6 m ³ Shovel	Large Excavator	2	4	3	3	3	3	1
89 -165 mm Production / Trim / Presplit Drill	Down the Hole Drill	2	3	3	3	3	2	1

Table 4.17 Support Fleet Per Year

Equipment	Fleet Size per Year						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4 m ³ Support Loader	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Excavator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5 m Blade Track Dozer	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
7.5 m Blade Grader	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
28 t Water truck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HM 300 Fuel/Lube Truck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surface boom truck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surface telehandler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surface forklift	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surface mechanical service truck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surface lowboy and tractor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mobile welding machine	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Emulsion truck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pick up trucks	16	16	16	16	16	16	8
Road trucks	5	10	10	10	10	10	6

Table 4.18 summarizes the blasting and number of drills needed per year. This assumes one blast per day or 365 blasts per year and a powder factor of 0.6 kilograms per m³. Blasting will typically occur at pre-designated times during dayshift and will be communicated with key stakeholders and residents. Blasting volumes will vary depending on the mine plan, typically ranging in sizes from 10,000 to 35,000 tonnes (Table 4.18). Emulsion will be the primary explosive agent, and the sequencing of the blasts will be designed to reduce vibration and noise. Prior to the start of Project specific blasting activities, New Found Gold will have a blast management plan (BIMP) in place. The BIMP will address aspects relating to the management and monitoring of blasting as it relates to adverse effects associated with vibration, noise and dust emissions. The plan will guide safe and controlled blasting practices, address associated risks including flyrock and infrastructure damage, and will be a working document that may be revised periodically so that changes in the mine construction and operations plan are appropriately addressed.

Table 4.18 Blasting and Number of Drills Needed Per Year

Parameters	Unit	Year						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Material Tonnage	t	9,418,825	11,095,975	10,388,513	12,161,715	12,501,614	8,226,816	1,849,757
<i>In-Situ</i> Volume	m ³	3,488,454	4,109,621	3,847,597	4,504,339	4,630,227	3,046,969	685,095
Annual Explosives Used	kilogram (kg)	2,452,574	2,889,256	2,705,057	3,166,781	3,255,277	2,142,182	481,675
Per Blast Explosives Used	kg	6,715	7,910	7,406	8,670	8,912	5,865	1,319
Per Blast Tonnage	t	25,787	30,379	28,442	33,297	34,228	22,524	5,064
Per Blast Volume	m ³	9,551	11,252	10,534	12,332	12,677	8,342	1,876
Per Blast Area	m ²	1,910	2,250	2,107	2,466	2,535	1,668	375
Total # of Drills	#	2	3	3	3	3	2	1

Table 4.19 summarizes average daily trips on the haulage roads, using 40 t haul trucks with a gross operating weight of 77,415 kg.

Table 4.19 Average Daily Trips on the Haulage Roads

Daily Trips per Segment – 40 t Haul Truck		Year						
Source	Destination	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Keats	Waste Rock Storage Facility	413	194	273	774	786	509	99
Iceberg	Waste Rock Storage Facility	-	486	329	6	-	-	-
Jackpot	Waste Rock Storage Facility	132	0	1	-	-	-	-
Dome	Waste Rock Storage Facility	6	0	17	-	-	-	-
Keats	Overburden Storage Facility	46	-	144	23	-	-	-
Iceberg	Overburden Storage Facility	-	62	-	-	-	-	-
Jackpot	Overburden Storage Facility	23	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dome	Overburden Storage Facility	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
Keats	Mineralized Material Stockpile	83	47	11	43	69	54	28
Iceberg	Mineralized Material Stockpile	-	33	76	9	-	-	-
Jackpot	Mineralized Material Stockpile	11	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dome	Mineralized Material Stockpile	0	-	2	-	-	-	-

4.5.3.2 Ore Crushing and Sorting

Material from the mine will be transported to a two-stage crushing plant, which will process between 54 and 83 tonnes per hour. The final screened product will have a target particle size (P80) of approximately 6 mm.

As described in Section 4.4.5, sensor-based sorting is a chemical-free technology that uses scanners and compressed air jets to separate ore from waste rock. New Found Gold is evaluating the use of this technology at the Project site, which would mark one of the first applications of ore sorting in NL. The decision to implement sorting remains subject to the results of ongoing testwork. As such, both scenarios (crushing with sorting and crushing alone) are currently being considered.

Under the crushing and sorting option, RoM ore would be crushed and screened. Coarse particles (12 to 50 mm) would be directed to an ore sorting plant for scanning and separation, while fines (<12 mm) would be combined with the sorted ore and transported to Pine Cove for processing. The final product from the sorting plant would be crushed to P80 -6mm for transport to Pine Cove. Rejected material would be stockpiled.

Sorting of ore offers several benefits by removing waste rock prior to transport and processing. These include reduced operating costs, lower truck traffic and GHG emissions, decreased energy and reagent consumption, and a reduction in tailings volume at the tailings management facility (TMF) at the Pine Cove processing facility.

The sorting circuit would involve two stages of separation using machines equipped with sensors. Approximately 50% of the sorter feed is expected to be rejected, while maintaining a gold recovery rate of 75%.

The pre-concentration process uses water for dust suppression only, and no chemical additives are involved in either the crushing or sorting stages. Water for dust suppression will be sourced from the primary settling pond planned to be located adjacent to the RoM pad and industrial terrace.

4.5.3.3 Waste Rock Management

The WRSF is described in Section 4.4.3. Access to the WRSF may be via intermediate ramps. Non-process feed materials will be deposited at the WRSF in sequential 15-m lifts, with benched slopes designed to maintain geotechnical stability throughout the life of the mine. Each lift will be built with a 35° face angle and 10-m berms, resulting in an overall slope angle of approximately 25.5°.

ML/ARD testing conducted waste rock to date is described in Section 4.1.2.2. PAG material will be separated and placed in a mined out open pit, which will eventually be flooded to become a pit lake as part of rehabilitation and closure, as described in Section 4.4.3.

As mining progresses, the facility will be progressively rehabilitated to support long-term closure objectives. Rehabilitation activities will be integrated into the operational schedule, allowing for phased rehabilitation as the facility increases in height. The final structure is expected to reach approximately 75 m in elevation and will be constructed in accordance with applicable engineering standards and regulatory requirements.

4.5.3.4 Operation-Related Traffic

It is estimated that 80 passenger vehicles will be coming to site for dayshift throughout the week and roughly 40 passenger vehicles for night shift. Most of the traffic will be workers traveling to and from the site at the start and end of their shifts, with some general freight and equipment transport vehicles accessing the site throughout the day. The shift changes will likely occur during early morning or late evening, outside the regular work or school day, so increases in traffic in local communities may not be apparent to the residents.

During full time operations, ore will be transported from the Project site to the Pine Cove processing facility via 30 to 40 t haul trucks (legal gross weight limit of 54.3 t per tridem tractor and trailer combinations; Figure 4.19). B-Train configuration tractor and trailers combinations have been evaluated but ruled out due to the higher tare weight of the equipment reducing ore payload per trip. During operation it is anticipated that 10 trucks will each complete two roundtrips per day to the processing facility at Pine Cove (Figure 4.20). Refer to Section 4.10 for discussion of processing alternatives that were considered.



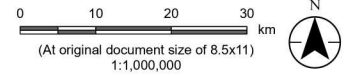
Figure 4.19 30-Tonne Haul Truck for Ore Transport to Off-site Processing Facility

New Found Gold has had preliminary discussions with officials from NLDTI regarding a Highway Access Permit, if required. That process will be undertaken following completion of the EA process. A Highway Access Permit, if required, will be specific to New Found Gold accessing the TCH and Route 410. Haulage of ore will be provided by New Found Gold or a contractor (decision to be finalized following completion of a trade-off study). New Found Gold anticipates that approximately 20 personnel will be required to support the transportation of ore to the Pine Cove processing facility.

\\nao151-ppf\SS01\work_group\1214\active\121418510_NewfoundlandGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2026-04-21 By: NIWhite



- Legend**
- ★ Queensway Gold Project Location
 - ★ Pine Cove Processing Location
 - Route to Processing Location



Project Location
North Gander Lake
Newfoundland and Labrador

Prepared by NW on 2025-10-02
QR by PM on 2026-04-14
TR by TO on 2025-10-02

Client/Project
New Found Gold Corp.
Queensway Gold Project

121418510_119b

Figure No.
4.20

Route to Pine Cove Processing Facility

Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
2. Data Sources: Stantec
3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; NRCan CanVec; Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

4.5.4 Rehabilitation and Closure

An RCP is a requirement of the NL *Mining Act*, chapter M-15.1, sections (8), (9), and (10). Under the *Mining Act*, the RCP is defined as the plan that describes the process of rehabilitation of a mining project at any stage of the project, up to and including cessation of operations and closure. Rehabilitation has been defined as the measures taken to restore the property as close as reasonably practicable to its former use or condition, or to an alternative use or condition that is considered appropriate and acceptable by the province.

The RCP will align with the main objectives of mine rehabilitation, which are as follows:

- Restore the land to as close to its natural state as practicable
- Reduce long-term impacts on the environment, including effects on fauna and flora
- Create a landscape that is visually acceptable and compatible with surrounding terrain and land use
- Mitigate and control, to acceptable levels, potential sources of contamination, pollution, fire risk, and public liability
- Provide a safe environment for long term public access

Rehabilitation will occur in three main stages:

- Progressive rehabilitation
- Closure rehabilitation
- Post-closure and long-term monitoring

4.5.4.1 Progressive Rehabilitation

Progressive rehabilitation will be implemented throughout the life of the mine, where practicable, and integrated into the operational schedule. Activities may include:

- Placement of waste rock berms and signage around exhausted pits for safety
- Demolition and removal of infrastructure which is no longer required
- Revegetation of disturbed areas no longer in use, including completed lifts of the WRSF
- Grading and stabilization of the WRSF using organic soils and overburden to promote natural revegetation
- Seeding of areas where natural revegetation may be slow to mitigate erosion and sedimentation
- Possible reshaping of the WRSF to blend with the surrounding landscape

Design features such as engineered slopes, drainage controls, and segregation of organic soils will support progressive rehabilitation. Non-PAG waste rock will be used for construction to reduce closure liabilities.

4.5.4.2 Closure Rehabilitation

Closure activities will commence following cessation of mining and will include both short-term decommissioning and long-term site restoration. Approximately 30 employees and 20 contractors will remain during closure, reducing to a small post-closure team thereafter.

Closure rehabilitation activities will include:

- Infrastructure Decommissioning:
 - Removal of modular offices, maintenance facilities, warehouses, weigh scales, and fuel storage systems
 - Decommissioning and removal of the crushing and sorting plant, conveyors, and associated equipment
 - Removal of explosives magazines in accordance with NRCan guidelines
 - Decommissioning of electrical substation, power lines, and communications infrastructure
 - Removal of potable water and sewage systems
 - Decommissioning of site roads and haul roads
- Waste Material Management:
 - The PAG portion of waste rock from the Keats pit is currently planned to be placed subaqueously in the mined-out Iceberg pit as it is mined to limit acid generation; the Iceberg pit will naturally fill at closure for long-term containment as a pit lake feature
 - Regrading and stabilization of WRSF lifts (final height approx. 30 m; overall slope angle 25.5°)
 - Covering of non-PAG waste rock and overburden with organic soils and topsoil, followed by revegetation using native species
 - Mineralized material below cut-off grade remaining at closure will be relocated to a mined-out pit (Keats pit – 90% and Iceberg pit – 10%) for long-term containment that will naturally fill to become a pit lake feature as part of the approved RCP
- Water Management and Restoration:
 - Continued operation of settling ponds until discharge meets regulatory standards
 - Removal of water management infrastructure once natural drainage is re-established
 - Restoration of watercourses affected by infrastructure

The RCP will incorporate ML/ARD management strategies, including composite base liners for PAG material, other accepted PAG material management strategies such as encapsulation and layering, and drainage collection systems to prevent contamination.

4.5.4.3 Post-Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Post-closure monitoring will confirm the success of rehabilitation efforts and compliance with regulatory standards. Monitoring programs may include the following:

- Physical Integrity: slope stability assessments of rehabilitated landforms and WRSF
- Revegetation Success: evaluation of vegetation cover and erosion control measures
- Water Quality: surface and groundwater monitoring to confirm compliance with provincial and federal requirements
- Wildlife Use: observations of rehabilitated areas for wildlife habitat recovery

Monitoring results will inform adaptive management and additional rehabilitation measures, if required. Once objectives are met, the site may be formally closed and released by NL Department of Energy and Mines (NLDEM) and receive Recognized Closed Mine status under MDMER. At such time, an application can be made to relinquish the site back to the Crown.

4.5.4.4 Regulatory Commitments and Financial Assurance

The RCP will be prepared and submitted to NLDEM following release from the EA process and as part of the permitting process under the NL *Mining Act*. The RCP will include the following:

- A detailed cost estimate for closure activities
- Financial assurance to cover the full cost of rehabilitation and closure
- Integration with other environmental management plans (e.g., WaMP, WMP, ML/ARD Management Plan)

New Found Gold will consult with regulators, Indigenous groups, and local communities to incorporate land use preferences and optimize closure outcomes.

4.6 Ore Processing

Project ore will be processed at the Pine Cove mill, which is the primary processing facility for the Hammerdown mining operation, located on the Baie Verte Peninsula in NL. An overview of Project-related truck traffic to the Pine Cove processing facility is provided in Section 4.5.3.4. Figure 4.21 shows the layout of the Pine Cove facility. The mill commenced operation in 2010 and served as the central hub for ore processing from nearby deposits, including Pine Cove, Argyle, and Stog'er Tight. Maritime Resources acquired the Pine Cove Mill in 2023, which at the time was in care and maintenance. The mill has since been recommissioned on low grade stockpiles in the first half of 2025, and started treating Hammerdown ores in October of 2025. On November 13, 2025, New Found Gold acquired Maritime Resources Corp. and its assets, including the Pine Cove mill and the Nugget Pond Hydrometallurgical Gold Plant gold circuit. Alternatives related to milling are further discussed in Section 4.10. Note that the mill is owned and operated by Maritime Resources Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of New Found Gold.

The Pine Cove processing facility is a permitted and operating facility that was previously subject to the provincial EA process and released with conditions (Registration No. 1182). The mill is currently approved to process up to 1,280 tpd (per Mill Licence No. ML-MRC-06, dated April 2, 2025). The facility requires modifications to process the Project ore, as described below.

The Pine Cove mill circuit currently includes a ball mill, flotation circuit, thickener, semi-autogenous grinding units, leach tanks, and a Merrill-Crowe circuit, with doré produced in the on-site gold room. This configuration currently processes Hammerdown ore at approximately 700 tpd, achieving a planned recovery of 88 percent. To increase recoveries (estimated recovery of 92 percent), changes are being proposed to the mill to enhance recovery of the Hammerdown ore feed. Proposed upgrades to the mill include changing the existing circuit to a gravity and carbon-in-leach (CIL) process at 700 tpd. These changes are being proposed in relation to the Hammerdown Project and will be permitted separately from changes required to accommodate ore from Queensway, as described below.

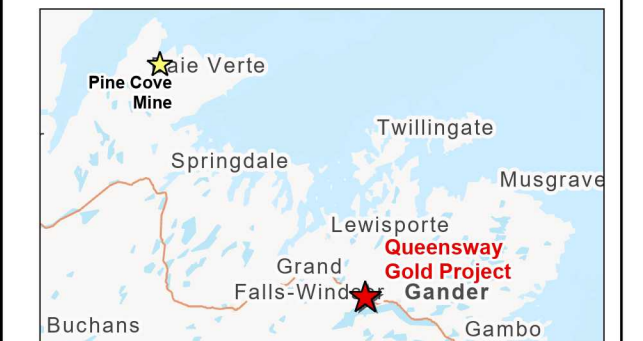
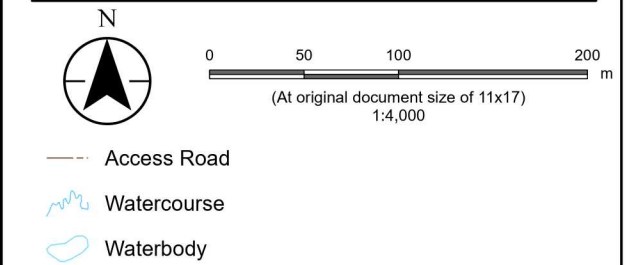
To accommodate high-grade ore from the Project, the Pine Cove mill will be upgraded to a combined capacity of approximately 1,400 tpd (i.e., an 11 percent increase from approved capacity) to process both Hammerdown and Queensway ore streams. The modifications will involve to provide capacity to treat the Queensway ore. Once modifications are completed, the Queensway ore will be crushed at the Queensway site and hauled to Pine Cove for processing. Hammerdown ore and Queensway ore will each be processed at approximately 700 tpd with an expected recovery of 92 percent. The proportion of Hammerdown and Queensway ore processed may vary from the nominal 700 tpd each, depending on operational requirements and ore availability. Additional ore for processing can be sourced from Queensway without affecting the planned mining rate for the Project. Should additional ore be shipped from Queensway to Pine Cove periodically, it would temporarily increase truck movements between the two sites, but not affect other planned Project activities or associated effects.



Figure No. 4.21
 Title Pine Cove Mill and Mine Infrastructure

Client/Project 121418510_133
 New Found Gold Corp.
 Queensway Gold Project

Project Location North Gander Lake
 Newfoundland and Labrador
 Prepared by MB on 2025-12-09
 QR by PM on 2026-04-16
 TR by NW on 2025-12-10



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
 2. Data Sources: Point Rouse Project Anaconda Mining
 3. Background: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping. Source: Esri, Vantor, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Esri Canada



\\s0151-ppf\SSD1\work_group\121418510\active\121417759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\arcgis\Proj\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2026-04-21 By: NWWhite

Tailings from Queensway ore will undergo cyanide destruction before deposition in the existing in-pit tailings facility, which has sufficient capacity to accommodate ore from Queensway, and is designed for long-term containment and progressive rehabilitation.

The modifications also include enhancements to the existing gold room to accommodate increased production. Supporting infrastructure such as offices, workshops, and reagent storage will be shared between the existing and new circuits. The mill is connected to the provincial electrical grid via a 25 kV three-phase line and is equipped with backup generators to maintain continuous operation. A substation upgrade is anticipated to meet additional power demand. Water for processing will continue to be sourced from Pine Cove Pond.

It should be noted that the modifications will not generate additional waste rock at Pine Cove, as only the ore will be transported to the site for processing and waste rock will remain at the Queensway Project site. Preliminary studies show that the Project ore has neutralization potential and is not expected to go acidic during short periods while stockpiled on surface before processing. However, arsenic is a neutral leaching metal that may be mobile in runoff from the ore stockpiles. The ML/ARD potential of tailings produced from Queensway ore is currently being evaluated; however, the management measures in place for existing tailings at Pine Cove are expected to be applicable to Queensway tailings. Further, the existing closure concept for the TMF will continue to be applicable to the Queensway tailings. Due to the observed mineral stability, New Found Gold does not anticipate issues related to the short-term storage of ore at Pine Cove prior to processing. Regardless, the ore storage area will have controlled collection and containment of drainage as per existing permit and approval conditions at the facility.

The past-producing Pine Cove Gold Mine, which included open-pit mining along with the on-site milling and processing, was registered by Anaconda Gold Corp. on March 8, 2005, and released with conditions on May 10, 2005. The project had previously been registered and released in 1992 and again in 1997. The original proposal included a whole ore leach plant which was revised in 1997 to a flotation plant with off-site treatment of concentrates. The 2005 registration (Registration No. 1182) reflected the current mine configuration, featuring on-site milling and concentrate processing. Required permits or amendments to existing authorizations for the Pine Cove processing facility to receive and process ore from the Project will be obtained prior to transporting material from the Project site.

The changes described above for the Pine Cove mill are confined to the mill area itself, with no new stockpiles or infrastructure outside of the mill-related infrastructure. Existing stockpiles and laydown areas will continue to be used. The modifications are either within the scope of activities and effects previously assessed, or they are anticipated to have negligible additional environmental effects. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures are proposed beyond those previously identified and approved. This applies to the proposed increase from 1,260 to 1,400 tpd (an 11% increase from the approved capacity). This increase will not expand the footprint of the Pine Cove site, TMF, or stockpiles. The planned modifications and capacity increase will be addressed through updates to permits, approvals, and applicable management plans prior to initiation of these upgrades, including the Development Plan and RCP. Since the Pine Cove mill has been previously assessed, the remainder of this Environmental Registration focuses on potential effects and mitigation measures for the Queensway Project site.

4.7 Emissions, Discharges, and Waste

Emissions, discharges, and wastes will result from Project activities. During initial design, New Found Gold has employed design principles and plans for Best Available Control Technology (BACT), as applicable, to manage and mitigate emissions, effluents, and discharges. During Project execution, New Found Gold will adhere to mitigation measures based on industry standard BMPs to reduce emissions, discharges and wastes. The following sections describe the potential air contaminant emissions, sound emissions, lights emissions, effluent discharges, ML/ARD sources, and solid and hazardous wastes.

4.7.1 Air Contaminant Emissions

Air contaminant emissions are anticipated throughout the various phases of the Project. During the early works and construction phases, air contaminants may be released through combustion emissions from diesel- and gas-powered equipment, as well as particulate matter (dust) from activities such as site preparation, material handling, and equipment movement. Fugitive dust may also be generated from earthworks and blasting activities.

During operation, the Project will include blasting, extraction of ore, crushing, material handling, transportation, and use of diesel- and gas-powered equipment. These activities may contribute to airborne dust, combustion gases, and other emissions. During the rehabilitation and closure phase, air contaminant emissions are anticipated to be lower than those observed during construction and operation, primarily due to reduced activity levels.

Emissions inventories (Appendix 4.B and Appendix 7.A) were developed for the peak year of construction and the peak year of operation using available Project design details and recognized emission factors (i.e., ECCO and United States Environmental Protection Agency AP-42). A dispersion model was developed for the peak year of emissions (typically during Project operation), and modelled concentrations were compared against applicable provincial and federal air quality standards to assess the effects on air quality. Air dispersion modelling results is provided in Section 7.4.1.

Fugitive dust emissions will be controlled by adjusting the crushing rate and the blast size and, if necessary, the application of water obtained from the raw water system or the settling pond(s). To reduce the generation of dust, the working areas and laydown areas will be covered with blasted rock. Dust generated by truck movement along the site roads will be reduced by speed control, proper truck loading, application of water to suppress and proper road maintenance. Calcium chloride could also be used, with regulatory approval, to further control dust emissions if required. Combustion emissions will be mitigated through measures that reduce fuel consumption, including efficient haulage planning, reduced idling, use of grid electricity, and proper engine maintenance. Furthermore, an adaptive management approach is proposed which includes reductions or temporary suspension of Project activities such as hauling and crushing as needed to maintain compliance with ambient air quality standards during dry and/or windy periods.

4.7.1.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions occur from both human activities and natural activities. The increased presence of GHGs in the atmosphere on a worldwide scale over time has led to climate change (IPCC 2023). The GHGs that are regulated in NL include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), and certain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs). The GHGs that are relevant for the Project are CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O; other GHGs are not expected to be present or may be present in small quantities in contained systems but would not be in reportable amounts. GHG species contribute to climate change at different rates; this is expressed by applying the global warming potential for each gas to create on a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) basis. For example, methane has a global warming potential of 28 (ECCC 2025b); this means that 1 t of methane is equivalent to 28 t of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

GHG emissions from sources in Canada are reported annually in Canada's National Inventory Report (ECCC 2025b). The provincial and national GHG emissions for the latest published year were obtained to provide context for the Project's operational GHG emissions. These are presented in Table 4.20.

Table 4.20 Provincial and National GHG Emissions (2023)

Boundary	kt CO ₂	kt CH ₄	kt N ₂ O	kt CO ₂ e
Newfoundland and Labrador	6,944	26	0.36	7,922
Canada	545,479	3,895	106	693,912

Source: ECCC (2025b)

Newfoundland and Labrador's GHG emissions represented approximately 1% of Canada's GHG emissions in 2023.

GHG emissions will be released during the construction and operation phases of the Project. The main source of GHG emissions during construction is fuel combustion in stationary and mobile equipment. The fuel used in heavy construction equipment is primarily diesel, a fossil fuel which produces GHGs when combusted. Depending on availability and cost, diesel with renewable content, such as biodiesel or renewable diesel, may also be used to reduce GHGs. Renewable or biodiesel is produced from more recently grown organic vegetation and therefore are not considered to contribute to climate change when combusted. The GHG emissions assessment assumes zero renewable content so that GHG emissions presented herein are conservative. GHG emissions were estimated using estimated diesel consumption for the Project and GHG emission factors from NL's "Guidance Document for Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Large Industry in Newfoundland and Labrador" (NLDECC 2017).

As vegetation is cleared and grubbed during construction, the amount of carbon within the vegetation can become oxidized to CO₂ or be anaerobically decomposed to CH₄, depending on the fate of the vegetation (e.g., stockpiling). Similarly, organic carbon in soil that is disturbed can oxidize to CO₂. The amount of GHGs released due to site clearing activities was estimated using the methodology described in ECCC's Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC 2020) and its draft first technical guide (ECCC 2022). Where available, information on forest maturity was used with relevant factors.

Explosive detonation in blasting is also a source of GHG emissions. Typically, ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO) emulsions are used as a mining explosive and the carbon in the fuel oil is partly oxidized to CO₂. To provide a conservative estimate, GHG emissions from blasting were estimated using the same emission factors as for diesel combustion (assuming complete oxidization).

Grid electricity is not planned to be used during construction but will be used in operation.

The approximate annual diesel, explosives, electricity use during construction and operation is provided in Table 4.21. Details on the calculation methods used to estimate construction and operation emissions are provided in Appendix 4.B.

GHG emissions from Project activities during construction are presented in Table 4.22.

Table 4.21 Diesel, Explosive, and Electricity Use During Operation

Parameters	Unit	Construction	Year							Total
			1 (6 months)	2	3	4	5	6	7	
On-site Equipment Diesel Use	Litres	3,346,321	3,346,321	7,764,947	7,858,412	7,888,866	8,665,785	7,190,928	3,243,180	49,304,760
Explosives Use	Tonnes	-	2,453	2,889	2,705	3,167	3,255	2,142	482	17,093
Electricity Use – Peak	Gigawatt-hour	-	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.1	141

Table 4.22 GHG Emissions During Construction

Source	CO ₂ (t)	CH ₄ (t)	N ₂ O (t)	CO ₂ e (t)
On-site Equipment	8,911	0.45	1.34	9,278
Blasting	232	-	-	232
Land-use Change	94,908	-	-	94,908
Total Emissions (excluding Land-use Change)	9,143	0.45	1.34	9,510
Total Emissions (including Land-use Change)	104,052	0.45	1.34	104,419

Approximately 9,510 t CO₂e of GHG emissions would be released during construction (excluding emissions from land-use change). This is a small amount (0.1%) compared to NL's 2023 GHG emissions. Because land-use change emissions are from biogenic sources (instead of fossil fuel sources), these emissions are reported separately from total GHG emissions and are not compared to provincial emissions totals. This approach is consistent with emissions reporting in Canada's National Inventory Report (ECCC 2025b).

The GHG emission sources during operation and maintenance will be similar to those for construction. Diesel will be used in large mobile equipment, such as the hydraulic shovel, front end loader, and articulated haulage trucks, as well as in the support equipment, such as bulldozers, graders, and water trucks. Drilling followed by blasting with ANFO emulsion will also be used. Facility operations will use electricity from the NL electrical grid. Peak electrical use was estimated and used to estimate indirect GHG emissions from electricity.

The emissions of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O for the peak operation year (Year 5) are presented in Table 4.23.

Table 4.23 Peak Annual GHG Emissions (Y5)

Source	CO ₂ (t)	CH ₄ (t)	N ₂ O (t)	CO ₂ e (t)
On-site Equipment (direct/onsite)	23,077	1.15	3.47	24,028
Blasting (direct/onsite)	615	-	-	615
Electricity Use (indirect/offsite)	-	-	-	107
Total Direct	23,692	1.15	3.47	24,643
Total Direct and Indirect from Electricity	23,692	1.15	3.47	24,750

The total direct annual peak direct GHG emissions during Year 5 are estimated to be 24,643 t CO₂e. Electricity use from the NL electrical grid results in an additional 107 t CO₂e. Total direct and indirect GHG emissions during the peak year of operation are 24,750 t CO₂e. The Project's peak direct and indirect GHG emissions represent approximately 0.3% of 2023 NL GHG emissions.

Total GHG emissions over the operation phase are summarized in Table 4.24.

Table 4.24 Annual GHG Emissions During Operation

Parameters	Unit	Year							Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
On-site Equipment	t CO ₂ e	9,278	21,530	21,789	21,874	24,028	19,938	8,992	127,430
Blasting	t CO ₂ e	273	546	511	599	615	405	91.0	3,040
Electricity Use	t CO ₂ e	117	129	113	111	107	105	103	784
Total Direct	t CO₂e	9,551	22,076	22,300	22,472	24,643	20,343	9,083	130,470
Total Direct and Indirect	t CO₂e	9,668	22,205	22,413	22,583	24,750	20,448	9,186	131,254

Direct GHG emissions over the operation phase are approximately 130,470 t CO₂e, with an annual average of 22,293 t CO₂e per year (excluding Y1 as only 6 months of operate occur). Indirect GHG emissions are approximately 112 t CO₂e over the operation phase from electricity use (excluding Y1). The total GHG emissions including both direct and indirect sources are 131,254 CO₂e.

GHG emissions legislation in NL requires industrial facilities that emit 15,000 t CO₂e per year or more quantify and report annual GHG emissions. Based on the estimated GHG emissions, the Project would be required to report GHG emissions to the NL Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. Actual operational emissions would be confirmed during the first year of operation based on measured fuel usage and blasting.

ECCC requires reporting of GHG emissions when annual GHG emissions are over 10,000 t CO₂e (ECCC 2023). The Project will likely be required to annually quantify and report GHG emissions to ECCC.

The *Management of Greenhouse Gas Regulations* (NL 116/18) requires that new facilities that would be subject to the Regulation must use the BACT for GHGs. The threshold for application of NL 116/18 is 25,000 t CO₂e. While the Project does not meet this threshold, engagement with the NL government has indicated that a BACT study will be required for this Project. The BACT study is provided in Appendix 4.C.

The hauling of crushed ore by trucks for processing at Pine Cove will generate GHG emissions. These indirect emissions would be outside the reporting boundary for the Project as they occur on highway. The haul truck GHG emissions are estimated to be approximately 6,052 t CO₂e per year on average.

Mitigation measures that reduce fuel combustion or reduce the carbon intensity of fuels used will reduce GHG emissions. During construction, the mitigation measures to be applied include:

- Where commercially available and up to a manufacturer recommended blend, use diesel with renewable content (e.g., biodiesel, renewable diesel)
- Maintaining equipment in good working condition to optimize energy efficiency
- Using the right sized equipment for the task to work at an optimal load
- Reducing or eliminating idling to prevent wasted fuel
- Keeping records of fuel use to identify when equipment may not be working optimally

In addition, mitigation measures for land-use change to be applied include:

- Removing only the vegetation that is within the Project's footprint
- Allowing natural revegetation or seeding in areas no longer needed
- Implementing timber salvage for trees that can be used by communities for firewood
- Mulching and spreading of woody biomass (instead of stockpiling) reduces potential for anaerobic decomposition and CH₄ emissions

During operation, the mitigation measures listed above for construction remain relevant. Indirect emissions from electricity use can also be reduced by selecting energy efficient equipment. The use of grid electricity preferentially over fossil fuels results in large GHG savings due to the low GHG intensity of the Newfoundland grid. The proponent will look for opportunities to electrify equipment as deemed technically and economically feasible. Monitoring of fuel and electricity use will be done to assist with annual GHG emissions quantification.

4.7.2 Sound Emissions and Vibration

Noise and vibration will be generated from the operation of vehicles, heavy machinery, construction and clearing equipment, and the use of explosives in the development of the Project. The main mitigation measure will be to provide a safe distance between the source and receptors and to follow measures listed in New Found Gold's BIMP. Blasting will be restricted to daytime hours, following best practices outlined in the Blasters Handbook (ISEE 2016) and the Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines (Environment Canada 2009). Noise during rehabilitation and closure is expected to be less compared to earlier phases. Detailed noise modelling has been completed to support the Project and is provided in Section 7.4.2.

An earth berm is proposed to provide additional noise mitigation for receptors near or within the Town of Appleton during operation. It will be strategically located between the Keats pit and the Town of Appleton to attenuate noise propagation and reduce sound levels at nearby receptors (Figure 4.22). The berm will be approximately 10 m high and preliminarily designed with side slopes of approximately 2.5H:1V and a crest width of approximately 8 m, including safety berms, to accommodate vehicle access for inspection and maintenance. Based on these parameters, the base width is anticipated to be on the order of 55 to 60 m, subject to refinement during detailed design.

The berm will be constructed in engineered lifts using suitable non-acid generating overburden material generated during initial clearing and development of the open pits, placed and compacted to promote long-term stability. Foundation preparation will include stripping of organic or otherwise unsuitable materials where present. Surface drainage will be directed away from the structure, and erosion protection will be provided through progressive rehabilitation, including placement of growth medium and establishment of vegetation on completed sections. Progressive rehabilitation will be implemented, including placement of suitable growth medium and establishment of vegetation on completed sections to promote stability and integrate the structure into the surrounding landscape.

The design will be subject to detailed geotechnical verification to confirm global and internal stability under static and seismic loading conditions, as applicable for long-term mine infrastructure.

\\s0151-ppf5501\work_group\1214\active\12141759803_data\gis_cad\mapping\ArcGIS Pro\121418510_NewfoundGold\121418510_NFG_EA.aprx Revised: 2028-04-27 By: nwhite

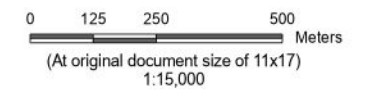


Figure No.
4.22

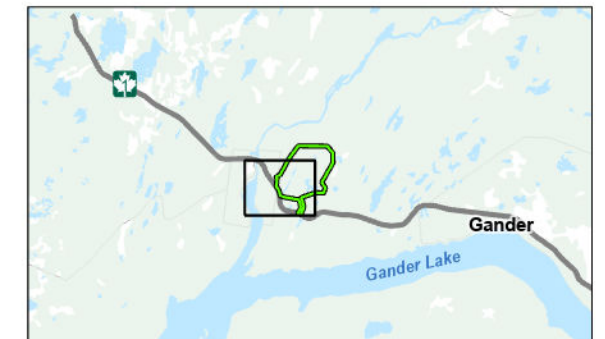
Title
Earth Berm Location

Client/Project
New Found Gold Corp.
Queensway Gold Project 121418510_141

Project Location
North Gander Lake
Newfoundland and Labrador Prepared by NW on 2025-04-21
TR by CW on 2028-04-27



- Project Area
- Proposed Project Layout**
- Access Road
- 10 m Berm
- Haul Road
- Proposed Site Features
- Existing Infrastructure**
- Transmission Line
- Highway
- Collector
- Local / Street
- Resource Road / Trail
- NL T'Railway Provincial Park
- Wetlands and Waterways**
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Administrative Boundaries**
- Municipal Boundary



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS MTM 2
2. Data Sources: New Found Gold Corp.; Stantec
3. Background: New Found Gold Corp. 50 cm Orthomagey (May 2024); Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands - Land Use Atlas Mapping Service, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; National Road Network, Statistics Canada; Additional topographic basemapping from Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS



4.7.3 Light Emissions

During construction, the primary source of light will be mobile artificial lighting used intermittently across the Project Area. Directional lighting and best practices will be applied to reduce light trespass, glare, and contributions to sky glow to acceptable levels. In the operation phase, nighttime lighting may be required for site roads, processing of ore, waste and water management, and site infrastructure. The final lighting design is still in development but will follow industry best practices, such as those recommended by the United States Bureau of Land Management (Sullivan et al. 2023), to reduce environmental effects.

With mitigation measures in place, light trespass and glare are not expected to exceed Commission Internationale de L'Éclairage guidelines at nearby receptor locations. Sky glow is anticipated to remain consistent with baseline conditions.

4.7.4 Effluent Discharges

Sources of effluent from the Project include surface runoff (i.e., contact water), grey water, and sanitary sewage. New Found Gold will implement a WaMP to confirm appropriate control of contact water across the operational areas (Appendix 4.A). Further detail on site water management is also found in Section 4.4.10.

Surface runoff and runoff from infrastructure will be directed to a multiple settling pond system via engineered drainage ditches, as necessary and feasible. New Found Gold will put in place appropriate sediment and erosion control measures. A sump at the lowest elevation of the open pits will pump groundwater inflow and surface water runoff to a dedicated settling pond system, as needed. Overflow from the settling pond system will be directed to natural drainage. Liquid discharges from the Project will comply with the provincial Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations and the federal MDMER.

Water collected from the RoM pad, WRSF, and open pits will be sent to the settling pond system(s) prior to release. The settling pond system(s) will serve as the primary water treatment facilities. The RoM pad and WRSF ponds are predicted to require additional treatment to meet regulatory guidelines or permit conditions for arsenic. A treatment system will be constructed to treat the RoM pad and WRSF pond outflows prior to discharge to the environment. The treatment system may include pH adjustment, particulate flocculation, sedimentation, and pH rebalancing. Further information on solids produced from this treatment system is provided in Section 4.7.6.

A septic system will be installed to service the office and dry trailers.

4.7.5 Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage

The results of the ongoing ML/ARD testing program (Section 4.1.2.2) indicate that most samples tested are non-PAG (approximately 72% non-PAG and 14% uncertain acid generating potential), but a proportion of the waste rock, overburden, and mineralized material is PAG (approximately 15%), particularly BSGI waste rock, BSIL waste rock, and mineralized material. Additionally, most of the material types tested to date have indicated moderate to high leaching potential; PAG materials are anticipated to have high leaching potential for base metals (e.g., copper, nickel, and zinc), whereas non-PAG materials are anticipated to leach arsenic under neutral drainage conditions. To manage the release of acidic water and metals from mined materials, the following ML/ARD management measures will be implemented. These will be formalized into a ML/ARD Management Plan prior to construction.

4.7.5.1 Sampling, Testing, and ML/ARD Classification

4.7.5.1.1 Operational Sampling

During the construction and operation phases, confirmatory geochemical sampling of mined materials is required to confirm ML/ARD potential prior to material management. Operational sampling will also be conducted to confirm the existing results of the ML/ARD testing program, and to better quantify and delineate the distribution of PAG and non-PAG materials at the Project. Operational sampling will be material type-dependent and conducted at the rates outlined in Table 4.25, based on sampling frequency recommendations in MEND (2009). A procedure for collecting operational samples will be developed prior to the start of the Project, and sampling rates may be reduced (or increased) at a later stage of mine development following the review of the results by a Qualified Professional (QP).

Table 4.25 Summary of Operational ML/ARD Sampling Program

Material Type	Estimated Tonnage	Sampling Rate ^a
Waste rock	58,847,776	1 per 25,000 t
Overburden	4,446,992	1 per 50,000 t
Mineralized material (ore)	6,795,439	1 per 50,000 t

Notes:

^a Sampling rates may be reduced if operational sampling indicates that materials are predominantly non-PAG, whereas rates may be increased if operational sampling indicates that materials have variable acid generation potential.

t = tonne(s)

4.7.5.1.2 Laboratory Testing

The samples collected as part of operational sampling will be submitted to an external laboratory for analysis. The analytical methods proposed below are consistent with those used in the ongoing ML/ARD testing program (Section 4.1.2.2.2), which were selected based on guidance in MEND (2009).

Geochemical testing will be completed in stages for each batch of operational samples collected. The first stage of testing will be completed on all samples and will include the following static geochemical tests:

- Acid base accounting package including sulphur speciation (total sulphur, sulphate sulphur, and sulphide sulphur), carbon speciation (total carbon, total organic carbon, and total inorganic carbon [TIC]), Modified Sobek NP, and paste pH.
 - Generally, Modified Sobek NP values in the existing ML/ARD testing program dataset are comparable to, or higher than, NP values calculated from TIC content (i.e., TIC NP). If this trend is consistently confirmed by initial ABA test results from operational sampling, the ABA package may, at the QP's discretion, be reduced to only sulphur and carbon analyses to improve laboratory turnaround times, with the full ABA suite completed on a subset of samples for reconciliation purposes. Additionally, an on-site laboratory capable of analyzing sulphur species and carbon species, and completing Modified Sobek NP titrations, may be established in the future and used for faster material classification, provided the results consistently demonstrate good agreement with external laboratory analyses.
 - Single-addition NAG pH testing may also be incorporated into the testing program at the discretion of the QP.

- Solid-phase elemental analysis by aqua regia digestion and ICP-MS.
 - At the QP's discretion, faster field-based methods for determining trace element concentrations, such as portable X-ray fluorescence, may be incorporated into the testing program in the future, provided the results consistently demonstrate good agreement with external laboratory analyses.

Following review of the results from the initial static tests, a subset of samples (approximately half) from each sample batch will be analyzed using the following methods:

- Short-term leach testing by SFE, which involves continuously mixing a crushed sample (85% passing 6.3 mm) with deionized water (3:1 liquid to solid ratio) for 24 hours and analyzing the resulting leachate for pH, alkalinity and acidity by titration, major anions by colourimetry, and dissolved metals by ICP-MS.

Additionally, samples may be selected for HCT following review of the SFE results to characterize long-term rates of acid generation, neutralization, and metal release. Samples selected for HCT will also undergo mineralogical analysis by QEMSCAN to determine bulk mineralogical composition, identify acid-generating and acid-neutralizing minerals, and characterize mineral associations. Results from the HCTs may also be used to develop/refine existing source terms used for Site water quality predictions.

Duplicate samples will be collected and analyzed to evaluate sample reproducibility and the accuracy of laboratory results. One duplicate sample will be collected for every 10 primary samples collected, following the same collection procedures as the primary samples. The reproducibility of the results will be evaluated by the QP.

4.7.5.1.3 ML/ARD Classification Criteria

ARD Potential

The determination of ARD potential is required for the classification and management of mined materials. The ARD potential is determined based on NPR values calculated from the ratio of Modified Sobek NP to total sulphur AP. To simplify material classification and conservatively manage materials on site, samples will be classified based on the following criteria:

- $NPR \leq 2 = \text{PAG}$
- $NPR > 2 = \text{non-PAG}$

As mentioned in the previous section, NPR values calculated using the ratio of TIC NP to total sulphur AP may ultimately be used to differentiate between PAG and non-PAG materials using the criteria outlined above, provided that Modified Sobek NP and TIC NP remain well reconciled.

Leaching Potential

The leaching potential of mined materials will be assessed as follows:

- Generally, there is a correlation between solid-phase elemental content and SFE leachate concentrations in the existing ML/ARD program dataset. Parameters will be initially flagged as potentially metal leaching in samples with solid-phase elemental concentrations exceeding ten times the average crustal abundances reported in the *Guidelines for Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage at Mine Sites in British Columbia* (British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines 1998). However, elevated solid-phase concentrations do not necessarily indicate leaching potential, and materials with lower solid-phase concentrations may still exhibit leaching behaviour.
- Parameters will be considered to have elevated leaching potential in samples with SFE leachate concentrations exceeding the CWQG-FAL and/or MDMER limits. It is noted that these guideline comparisons are intended for screening purposes only; exceedances do not necessarily indicate that water in contact with exposed mined materials will exceed guideline values, nor do they imply non-compliance with the guidelines.

4.7.5.2 Material Management

4.7.5.2.1 Waste Rock

Operational waste rock sampling and testing will be conducted to assess ML/ARD potential. Waste rock classified as non-PAG will be stored in the WRSF or used for construction activities if low-metal leaching, while PAG waste rock will be placed and submerged in an open pit to minimize oxidation. Based on the current mine plan, most PAG waste rock will be encountered in Keats pit during the later years of the operation phase after mining in Iceberg pit has been completed. Therefore, the PAG material from the Keats pit will be placed underwater in the mined-out Iceberg pit, which will fill naturally at closure and provide long-term containment of the PAG waste rock within a pit lake.

Short-term leach testing and kinetic testing results from the ongoing ML/ARD testing program indicate that non-PAG waste rock has elevated leaching potential for several parameters, particularly arsenic (Section 4.1.2.2). The WRSF will be progressively rehabilitated (Section 4.5.4.1) as mining progresses and will be covered at closure to limit contact water infiltration, but additional measures to limit metal leaching and capture drainage from non-PAG rock may need to be considered.

Open pits will be allowed to naturally fill with water once backfilled to capacity or at closure to limit the exposure of waste rock on pit walls. Under saturated conditions, sulphide oxidation is greatly reduced because the oxygen diffusion in water is several orders of magnitude lower than in air (MEND 2009).

4.7.5.2.2 Construction Materials

Non-PAG waste rock with low leaching potential generated during open pit development will be used for the construction of pads, roads, and building foundations, or will be placed in the WRSF. Under the current mine plan, the majority of waste rock produced during the construction phase will be used to build the industrial terrace and the RoM pad. Waste rock will be managed such that only non-PAG material with low leaching potential is used for construction purposes. In addition, non-waste rock construction materials, such as aggregates sourced from local quarries, will be tested and screened against the ARD potential and leaching potential criteria described in Section 4.7.5.1.3. Only materials classified as non-PAG with low leaching potential will be considered suitable for construction use.

4.7.5.2.3 Overburden

Overburden is not anticipated to be acid generating, with greater than 80% of tested overburden samples classified as non-PAG based on NPR classification criteria (Section 4.1.2.2). If PAG overburden is identified during the operational sampling program, it will be segregated from the non-PAG overburden that will be stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes and will be placed in a mined-out open pit in accordance with the management strategy for PAG waste rock.

Overburden samples have moderate leaching potential for several parameters including arsenic based on the comparison of short-term leach testing results to the CWQG-FAL, though no parameters have high leaching potential based on MDMER exceedances (Section 4.1.2.2). If overburden with high arsenic leaching potential is identified during operational sampling, it will be managed separately from overburden being used for rehabilitation purposes. Where possible, glacial till soils used in rehabilitation can be layered with organic-rich overburden to reduce ML potential and improve the overall quality of the soil for vegetation growth.

4.7.5.2.4 Mineralized Material

Mineralized material stored in the ore stockpile area will be organized into five distinct stockpiles: MMBCG, mid-grade ore, mid-grade sorter rejects, high-grade sorter rejects, and a stockpile designated to hold approximately one week's worth of RoM material. Existing geochemical testing results for 13 samples (Section 4.1.2.2) indicate that MMBCG has variable ARD potential, with 23% and 54% of the samples classified as PAG and uncertain, respectively. The MMBCG also has high arsenic leaching potential, with arsenic concentrations exceeding the MDMER limit in 70% of short-term leach tests.

To date, the ML/ARD potential of higher-grade mineralized material has not been assessed. However, based on the known association between gold mineralization and sulphide minerals, higher proportions of mid-grade ore, mid-grade sorter rejects, and high-grade sorter rejects are expected to be PAG relative to MMBCG. Similarly, higher-grade mineralized material is likely to leach greater concentrations of arsenic than MMBCG due to the strong association between gold mineralization and arsenopyrite.

Mineralized materials will be stockpiled on site until transferred to the Pine Cove processing facility. To minimize exposure of PAG mineralized materials during operation, mid-grade and high-grade ore will be preferentially directed to the Pine Cove processing facility as mill feed, provided mill grade requirements are met. Non-PAG ore will be allocated to the stockpile, until transfer to the Pine Cove processing facility. Additional measures to reduce ML/ARD potential from mineralized materials, including installation of a composite liner beneath the ore stockpile and drainage collection systems to capture seepage, are currently under evaluation.

At closure, the high-grade sorter rejects, mid-grade ore, and mid-grade sorter rejects stockpiles are expected to have been processed at the Pine Cove processing facility, and MMBCG will be stockpiled for potential future processing. If no further processing occurs, MMBCG will be relocated to one or more mined-out open pits and contained under water cover within a pit lake, consistent with the management approach for PAG waste rock.

4.7.5.3 Contact Water Monitoring

A contact water monitoring program will be established to monitor the quality of surface water that interacts with mined materials with ML/ARD potential, including open pits, the WRSF, the overburden storage facility, the ore stockpile area, the industrial terrace, and associated drainage and water management ponds. Monitoring will also be conducted at the FDPs and the receiving waterbodies downstream of discharge locations. Details of the overall Project water quality monitoring program including visual inspections of mine infrastructure for standing water and seepage, monitoring locations and sampling frequencies, screening criteria, and reporting requirements are included in the WaMP (Appendix 4.A).

4.7.6 Solid and Hazardous Waste

New Found Gold has a WMP in place to support on-going exploration activities. This WMP will be reviewed and updated to reflect the scope of the Project and will be submitted to the Waste Management section of the Pollution Prevention Division for review.

The updated WMP will provide information on the management of liquid and solid waste that may be generated as a result of Project activities. Waste types will be identified and a description of waste management practices from generation to treatment and/or disposal will be provided. The WMP will consider basic waste management principles of reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering, and appropriate disposal options for Project waste generated.

Solid waste generated during construction and operation will be properly collected and stored until such time that it can be transported to a provincially approved waste disposal facility. Where possible, waste materials will be recycled and/or reused. Waste storage will include measures to reduce the attraction of wildlife. Provincial regulations that may apply to waste management or disposal at the Project site include the *Waste Diversion Regulations* and the *Waste Management Regulations*.

For hazardous waste, waste oil and filters will be removed from the site for proper disposal and recycling. In addition to petroleum products, there will be small amounts of solvents for parts cleaning stored on site. The WMP will outline appropriate handling, storage and disposal methods for these products. The handling, transportation, storage and use of explosives will be conducted by a licensed contractor employing trained and qualified personnel.

As indicated in Section 4.4.10 and 4.7.4, contact mine water from the RoM pad and WRSF pond outflows will require treatment for arsenic prior to discharge to the environment. The treatment system may include pH adjustment, particulate flocculation, sedimentation, and pH rebalancing. The mine water treatment system will produce settleable solids from the flocculation process. Based on the predicted arsenic and TSS concentrations, 90 to 150 tonnes per year of filter pressed solids would potentially be produced during treatment system operation. The pressed solids would be disposed of in one of the mined-out pits or transported to an approved landfill site for disposal.

Table 4.26 outlines a list of potential waste materials, sources, and disposal categories based on anticipated waste streams.

Table 4.26 Waste Handling, Storage, and Disposal Categories

Category	Waste Type	Source	Initial Storage Location	Management/ Disposal
Non-hazardous Materials				
General	Domestic waste (materials that cannot be recycled or reused)	All Areas	Laydown Area	Landfill
	Phones, computers, monitors, printers, and related hardware	Office	Laydown Area	Recycled / reused
Sewage	Biological waste	Sites and Office	Portable Toilets	Vacuumed out and disposed of in certified location
Beverage Containers	Aluminum cans, plastic beverage & food containers, glass bottles, drink boxes etc.	All Areas	Laydown Area	Recycled / Landfill
Food	Personnel lunches	All Areas	Laydown Area	Landfill
Wood and Paper	Pallets	All Areas	Laydown Area	Landfill
	Wire / cable spools	All Areas	Laydown Area	Recycled
	Scrap wood	All Areas	Laydown Area	Landfill
	Cardboard and Paper	Office	Laydown Area	Recycled
Metals	Drilling Rods	All Areas	Laydown Area	Recycled or Reused
	Scrap metal, piping, saw blades, small parts and machinery	All Areas	Laydown Area	
Hazardous Materials				
Hazardous Materials	Aerosol cans	All Areas	Hazardous Materials Storage/Laydown Area. In appropriately labelled containers.	Licensed Contractor
	Lithium / NiCad batteries			
	Spray Paint			
	Biomedical Waste • Materials such as bandages, gloves, needles, dressing etc.	Office	Office – proper waste container and/or sharps container	Nurse or Licensed Contractor
Hydrocarbon Materials	Fuel and oil filters	Mobile Equipment	Hazardous Materials Storage / Laydown Area. In appropriately labelled containers. Berms will be in place, where required.	Licensed Contractor
	Solvent / oil contaminated rags, workwear, and absorbent pads			
	Used oil			
	Grease tubes			
	Hydraulic hoses			
	Solvents and oils			
	Glycol			

4.8 Employment and Expenditures

The Project, through its construction and operation phases, will result in both direct and indirect economic benefits for the region and province. Through its current employment and procurement practices, New Found Gold has demonstrated their commitment to prioritizing benefits to local communities and will continue to source employees locally whenever possible. The following sections provide additional information on both anticipated employment and expenditures.

4.8.1 Employment

As of December 2025, there are 97 direct employees and 105 contractors associated with on-going exploration activities at the Queensway property. Currently, 88% of employees working at New Found Gold sites are residents of NL, with 61% from central Newfoundland. New Found Gold anticipates that it will be able to maintain a similar percentage of employees from both the region and the province once it moves into construction and operation of the Project.

As part of its commitment to hiring locally, New Found Gold will communicate employment information to local communities in a timely manner so that local residents have an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to qualify for potential Project-related employment. New Found Gold will also provide opportunities for apprenticeships and on-the-job training. The Common Core Program will provide employees with the tools required to be successful. The Common Core program is an entry-level training for anyone working in surface mining that includes essential safety modules such as safe work practices, lockout/tagout, and operating hand/power tools. The program works to prepare workers for specialized training and is developed by the sector and delivered by approved trainers, requiring practical workplace sign-off for full accreditation. New Found Gold is in communication with Trades NL and the Office to Advance Women Apprentices NL to be aware of available local labour.

During construction, the Project will create modest temporary employment opportunities in a variety of occupations. Over its anticipated 4- to 6-month construction phase, the Project will require an estimated 207 full-time equivalents (FTEs). Once operational, the Project will employ between 117 and 239 FTEs. Table 4.27 presents the various occupations required for Project construction and operation, along with their National Occupational Classification (NOC) codes. Year 1 employment numbers shown in Table 4.27 represents 6 months of construction and 6 months of operation with the same general workforce for both.

New Found Gold has completed a review of available housing and accommodations within a one-hour commute of the Project site. Based on the results, as detailed in Section 12.1.2, and given the anticipated percentage of employees that will be from central Newfoundland, New Found Gold anticipates that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate employees that may not currently reside locally. Therefore, an accommodations camp is not planned for construction or operation.

Table 4.27 Construction and Operation Related Employment

Position Category	NOC Code	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
Open Pit								
Operations General Foreman	82020	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operations Supervisor	82020	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Haul truck operator	73400	52	68	68	68	80	64	20
Hydraulic excavator operator	73400	12	12	12	12	12	8	4
Production drill operator	73402	8	12	8	12	12	8	4
Loader operator	73400	8	8	8	8	8	8	4
Dozer operator	73400	8	8	8	8	8	8	4
Grader operator	73400	8	8	8	8	8	8	4
Sand/water truck operator	73400	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Blaster	73402	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Blaster helper	73402	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Maintenance supervisor	72021	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Mechanic	22312	12	12	12	12	12	12	6
Electrician	72201	8	8	8	8	8	4	2
Fuel - Lube truck operator	73400	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Clerk	14100	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Subtotal		141	161	157	161	173	145	65
Sorting Plant and Crushing Plant								
Supervisor	82020	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clerk	14100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Equipment operator	73400	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Subtotal		10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 4.27 Construction and Operation Related Employment

Position Category	NOC Code	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
Transport								
Supervisor	82020	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clerk	14100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Equipment operator	73400	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Subtotal		22	22	22	22	22	22	22
General and Administrative								
Operations manager	80010	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chief engineer	20010	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Senior engineer	21330	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Planning engineer	21330	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Production technician	22101	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Surveying / mine technician	22101	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Clerk	14100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chief geologist	20011	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Grade control geologist	21102	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Sampling technician	22101	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Human resources officer	12101	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Health and safety	22232	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Accountant	11100	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Purchasing agent	12102	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Warehouse clerk	14100	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
First aid attendant	31301	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Trainer	12101	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Subtotal		34	34	34	34	34	34	20
Total Positions		207	227	223	227	239	211	117

4.8.2 Expenditures

The requirement for goods and services during Project construction and operation will provide opportunities for local businesses. These direct economic benefits will be supplemented by indirect and induced benefits through spending by Project employees and contractors. New Found Gold currently encourages contractors to source labour and supplies locally. As the Project moves into construction and operation, procurement packages will be developed and posted in a timely manner with consideration for capacity and capabilities of local and regional businesses, including Indigenous businesses. New Found Gold will continue to work with municipalities and economic development organizations to identify opportunities for the local region to benefit from Project expenditures.

The capital expenditures for the Project is projected at \$155 million. This estimate includes costs such as mine development, offsite processing modification (refer to Section 4.6), infrastructure, information systems, and other miscellaneous expenditures. The operational expenditures for the Project are projected to be \$868.6 million. This estimate includes mining costs, processing costs, ore sorter costs, general and administrative, transportation, and rehandling. A breakdown of operational Project costs, which were calculated by New Found Gold, are provided in Table 4.28.

Table 4.28 Estimated Operational Expenditures (C\$M) for the Project

Activity	Operational Cost (C\$M)
Mining	444.1
Offsite Processing at Pine Cove	122.3
Ore sorter	15.1
General and Administration	95.7
Transportation	183.4
Rehandling	8.3
Total	868.8

4.9 Environmental Management Measures

4.9.1 New Found Gold's Approach to Environmental Management

New Found Gold and its management team are committed to the environment and the local communities in which it works, and to conducting construction and operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, as described in the Company-Wide Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy (Appendix 4.D). During its exploration stages, New Found Gold has carried out operations using methods aimed at being effective and environmentally responsible. As a result, New Found Gold has gained public trust regarding the completion of activities in an environmentally and socially responsible way. New Found Gold's commitments to environmental and social responsibility will be achieved through prudent environmental management and the development of a number of environmental management plans that will address environmental and resource management issues. As described in the Sustainability Policy, New Found Gold is committed to implementing sustainable practices that promote environmental stewardship, social responsibility, economic viability, and health and safety (Appendix 4.D).

The following guiding principles highlight New Found Gold's values and regulatory obligations:

- Transparency in environmental performance and community engagement
- Accountability through regular assessments and public reporting
- Respect for Indigenous rights, biodiversity, and local ecosystems
- Continuous Improvement in energy efficiency, emissions reduction, and water stewardship

An umbrella plan, an Health, Safety and Environment Integrated Management System (HSE IMS), will also be developed that outlines the key objectives of the plans outlined in Section 4.9.2 and outlines the different levels of responsibility for contractors and site personnel relative to these plans. The Ethics, Transparency & Governance Policy also sets out New Found Gold's commitment to the highest standards of corporate governance, ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability (Appendix 4.D). The HSE IMS will also include:

- A Health, Safety and Environment Policy (Appendix 4.D) that provides statutory and corporate guidance throughout the Project life. The policy prioritizes the health, safety, and welfare of employees and the public, aiming to provide a safe work environment and prevent accidents, injuries, and illnesses. It includes a clear definition of objectives and targets relative to the health, safety and environment policy.
- A clear indication of how the organization is structured and resourced to allow for the execution of the HSE IMS. This also allows for a description of how accountability for environmental action across the company is distributed.
- Details of the measures specified for the management of particular environmental components or effects and how stated procedures of environmental policies can be easily translated into day-to-day practices.
- A system of recording performance, including monitoring, checking and auditing, implementation of actions to provide continual improvement and the application of corrective action when necessary.

Activities associated with the Project will be conducted in compliance with the NL *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations. Workers will receive relevant training as required by the legislation. Contractors hired to perform work will also be required to comply with this legislation, as per NL *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (s.10).

4.9.2 Management Plans

Several management plans will be developed to address the environmental regulatory requirements and commitments associated with the Project (Table 4.29). This list is not considered exhaustive, as the need for additional management plans may be identified through the permitting process. These plans will be updated as required to reflect ongoing and future activities for the Project. Updates will include the formal conditions of the EA processes, as well as subsequent requirements of federal and provincial permitting processes required for the Project. They will also encompass commitments made in this Environmental Registration, which includes applicable compliance standards and/or industry BMPs.

Table 4.29 Existing and Proposed Management Plans

Management Plan	Comments
Environmental Protection Plan (EPP)	The updated EPP will outline potential environmental concerns and protection procedures related to the activities carried out for the Project. This EPP will also outline practical procedures required for personnel (i.e., New Found Gold employees, contractors and suppliers) to limit potential adverse environmental effects, as well as instructions for addressing planned and unplanned activities or events associated with ongoing work. Refer to Section 4.9.2.1 for an overview of the proposed updated Plan.
Emergency Response Plan (ERP)	The ERP has been established to address identified situations which have become, or have the potential to become, an emergency. For this plan, an emergency is defined as an incident or condition that actually has resulted in, or potentially could result in, significant harm to people, the environment, or property, whether belonging to New Found Gold, its subcontractors, clients, or third parties. The ERP will be updated for this Project and will adhere to relevant provincial and federal regulations, as well as the requirements set forth by regulatory approvals.
Waste Management Plan (WMP)	New Found Gold will update their existing WMP to cover wastes associated with Project components and activities. New Found Gold will finalize and provide this document to government regulators for review prior to the start of Project construction.
Gender, Equity, and Diversity Plan (GEDP)	New Found Gold currently has a Women's Employment Plan, but understands that a GEDP will be required that meets the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. A business access strategy for members of under-represented populations will be included in the plan. The GEDP will set hiring targets across various roles, promote inclusive recruitment and training practices, and encourage contractors to support these goals. Through communication, monitoring, and annual reviews, New Found Gold will work to create a more equitable and respectful workplace.
Water Management Plan (WaMP)	New Found Gold's WaMP will be in place prior to the start of site-specific activities and will remain in place up to and including closure planning. An Early Works WaMP will also be developed in advance of early works. The WaMP will describe water management strategies relevant to Project activities and describe mitigation measures to limit adverse effects on the environment as a result of changes to surface and groundwater flow and quality.
Environmental Contingency Plan (ECP)	New Found Gold will update their existing ECP, which is part of the EPP. It will cover Project components and activities. New Found Gold will finalize and provide this document to government regulators for review prior to the start of Project activities. Construction and operations activities associated with the Project will be required to conform to the ECP.
Blast Management Plan (BIMP)	Prior to the start of Project specific blasting activities, New Found Gold will have a BIMP in place. The BIMP will address aspects relating to the management and monitoring of blasting as it relates to adverse effects associated with vibration, noise and dust emissions. The plan will guide safe and controlled blasting practices, address associated risks including flyrock and infrastructure damage, and will be a working document that may be revised periodically so that changes in the mine construction and operations plan are appropriately addressed.
ML/ARD Management Plan	New Found Gold will implement an ML/ARD Management Plan to prevent and manage the release of acidic water and dissolved metals from mine materials such as waste rock and exposed ore. The plan will identify potential risks, outline prevention and monitoring strategies, and define mitigation measures to protect water quality. Further information on the measures to be included in this plan are found in Section 4.7.5.
Effects Monitoring Plan (s)	The Effects Monitoring Plan will discuss impacts and preventative measures, mitigation measures, and long-term monitoring for species listed under the NL Endangered Species Act, species of conservation concern, and wetlands over the lifetime of the Project including rehabilitation and closure. This plan will be submitted for review and approval by the Wildlife Division before start of Project operations.

4.9.2.1 Environmental Protection Plan

An EPP is an important tool for consolidating environmental protection information and procedures in a document that provides sufficient detail for the implementation of environmental protection measures in the field. New Found Gold has an existing EPP that outlines the prevention and mitigation measures to be applied to limit potential adverse environmental effects associated with exploration activities. Prior to Project commencement, New Found Gold will review and update their existing EPP so that environmental protection measures relative to construction and operation activities for the Project are addressed.

The EPP will guide Project staff and contractors in managing activities like vegetation clearing, fuel handling, blasting, and dust control, and will include contingency plans for unexpected events. Contractors will receive the updated EPP and confirm their understanding of its requirements. Table 4.30 provides an overview of the proposed updated EPP for the Project. New Found Gold anticipates that further revisions to the EPP may be required to reflect feedback from regulators and conditions of release from the EA process.

Table 4.30 Overview of the Proposed Updated EPP

Chapter	Sections	Description
1.0 Introduction	1.1 Purpose of the EPP 1.2 Objectives of the EPP 1.3 Roles and Responsibilities 1.4 Orientation	Introduces the EPP. It outlines the EPP purpose and organization, roles and responsibilities and environmental orientation.
2.0 Project Activities		Provides a description of Project site activities.
3.0 Regulatory Requirements	3.1 Potential Approvals, Permits, and/or Authorizations 3.2 Environmental Compliance Monitoring 3.3 Rehabilitation and Closure 3.4 Reporting	Lists the permits, approvals and authorizations that may be required for the undertaking and provides an overview of compliance monitoring, rehabilitation activities, and reporting.

Table 4.30 Overview of the Proposed Updated EPP

Chapter	Sections	Description
4.0 Environmental Protection Procedures	4.1 Surveying 4.2 Buffer Zones 4.3 Laydown and Storage Areas 4.4 Clearing Vegetation 4.5 Grubbing and Disposal of Related Debris 4.6 Overburden 4.7 Excavation, Embankment and Grading 4.8 Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control 4.9 Water Supply 4.10 Watercourse Crossings 4.11 Exploration Drilling 4.12 Pumps and Generators 4.13 Dewatering Work Areas and Site Drainage 4.14 Equipment Installation, Use and Maintenance 4.15 Storage, Handling and Transfer of Fuel, and Other Hazardous Material 4.16 Propane Use 4.17 Waste Disposal 4.18 Sewage Disposal 4.19 Hazardous Waste Disposal 4.20 Vehicle Traffic 4.21 Dust and Air Contaminant Control 4.22 Noise and Light Control 4.23 Road Maintenance 4.24 Building Construction 4.25 Drilling and Blasting 4.26 Waste Rock and Ore / Concentrate 4.27 Crushing and Pre-Concentration Activities	Describes environmental concerns and environmental protection procedures associated with work activities. The measures include standard mitigation and best practices for addressing these activities.
5.0 Contingency Plans	5.1 Fuel and Hazardous Material Spills 5.2 Wildlife Management 5.3 Avifauna Management 5.4 Forest Fires 5.5 Discovery of Historic Resources 5.6 First Aid	Outlines the contingency plans for potential unplanned and accidental events.
6.0 EPP Control Revisions		Describes procedures for revising the EPP.
7.0 Contact List		Contains a list of key Project and regulatory contacts.
8.0 Reference Material		Lists references cited in the EPP
9.0 Signature Page		Contains a signature page for employee and contractor sign-off.

4.9.3 Standard Mitigation Measures

Many of the identified potential adverse environmental effects can be managed effectively with standard operating procedures and standard mitigation measures. Mitigation measures proposed to reduce or avoid potential Project-related adverse effects are found in Table 4.31. In addition, each valued component (VC) assessment provides mitigation measures to reduce or avoid potential adverse effects on the VC (Sections 7-14). New Found Gold will implement and adhere to relevant environmental mitigation requirements outlined in applicable legislation and regulations, including commitments made in this Registration document, and eventually required as enforceable conditions of approval.

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Site Clearing, Site Preparation, and Erosion and Sediment Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation clearing will be scheduled outside the critical bird nesting period and bat roosting period where feasible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing and grubbing will be limited to the necessary footprint and comply with applicable permits.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer zones of undisturbed vegetation (minimum 15 m) will be established and maintained between work areas and water bodies, and identified sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, rare plant occurrences, roosts, dens), where practicable. These buffer zones will be designated as no-activity areas, and the limits of approved disturbance activities (including clearing, grubbing, and topsoil and overburden removal) will be clearly marked in the field (e.g., flagging or survey stakes) prior to the commencement of work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber will be felled inward toward the work area to avoid damaging standing trees within the immediate work area.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleared vegetation will be mulched and spread, and merchantable timber will be donated to local communities for firewood.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures will be implemented to reduce and control sediment-laden runoff, including leaving stumps and roots in place to maintain soil cohesion and promote natural revegetation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grubbed areas will be left exposed for the shortest time practicable to limit erosion.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working areas and laydown areas will be covered with blasted rock to reduce dust.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grading, if required, will be directed away from wetlands, where possible, and grading will be reduced within wetland boundaries unless required for site-specific purposes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erodible areas (including excavated materials) will be stabilized, regularly inspected and maintained until they are permanently stabilized.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage ditches will be stabilized using vegetation, rock armouring, or other suitable erosion control methods.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediment control measures (e.g., silt fences, mulching, straw wattles or fibre rolls, revegetation) will be implemented if needed to reduce soil loss from exposed areas and stabilize surfaces.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion control structures will be monitored and maintained to prevent sediment buildup and to confirm they are functioning properly.
Soil Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleared materials, including organics, topsoil, overburden, and bedrock, will be segregated and stored in low, stable piles for use in rehabilitation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockpiles of topsoil, overburden, and other potentially dust-generating materials will be managed to minimize dust generation, including through revegetation where feasible. Where applicable, stockpiled material will be used or removed as soon as practical.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuitable material will be disposed of in approved areas.

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Works In or Near Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An undisturbed buffer zone of at least 300 m will be maintained around Gander Lake and at least 100 m along both sides of streams and main tributaries (including scheduled salmon rivers) running into Gander Lake.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A buffer zone of at least 100 m will be maintained for Gander River and main tributaries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project infrastructure will be sited to avoid fish habitat to the extent practicable. Where the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat cannot be avoided, the habitat will be offset, as required by the <i>Fisheries Act</i>.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work will be conducted below the high-water mark without prior assessment and applicable permits.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-stream work will be avoided when sensitive fish life stages are present (Sept 30 to May 31), unless authorized.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culverts on fish-bearing streams will be installed using best practices to protect fish habitat and stabilize stream banks, including countersinking, alignment with natural stream flow, being sized appropriately, and being designed to facilitate passage.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When fording watercourses, the NL Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change Environmental Guidelines will be adhered to.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water intakes will have appropriately sized screens to prevent harm to fish.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best efforts will be made by a qualified environmental professional to relocate fish from areas of in-water works (e.g., South Herman's Pond) to an appropriate location in the same watershed, as required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work will be scheduled to heed weather advisories to avoid periods that may result in high flow volumes and increase the potential for erosion and sedimentation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When working in-water, machinery will be operated on land in dry stable areas, as practically feasible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When working in-water, excavated material will be placed above the high-water mark or top of bank of nearby waterbodies to prevent re-entry of sediments.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed non-biodegradable erosion and sediment control materials will be removed once the work area is stabilized.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas to be de-watered will be done so gradually to prevent sediment resuspension and bank destabilization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water being pumped or diverted from areas of in-water works will meet applicable guidelines before being discharged to the receiving environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency spill kits will be readily available when working within 15 m of watercourses and waterbodies. 	

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Site Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cofferdams may be installed to isolate in-water work areas and maintain dry conditions, including controlling flow toward excavations and pits.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trenches or drains will be installed to gravity-drain low areas of ponds or excavation areas toward sump pits, which will be constructed at the pond bottom and dewatered using pumps for appropriate discharge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dewatering, trench water, and surface water runoff will be routed to vegetated areas, following natural drainage patterns, and treated using filtration systems or turbidity controls (e.g., straw bales, geotextile, settling ponds) such that applicable water quality thresholds are met prior to discharge to the receiving environment, where practicable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site drainage systems will be designed to limit impacts on downstream watercourses, wetlands, and associated vegetation, and to allow wildlife crossing opportunities, where feasible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality monitoring will be conducted to verify implementation and compliance with applicable effluent standards (e.g., provincial <i>Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003</i>; federal MDMER).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring will be conducted at nearby residential wells, if applicable, within 1 km of the Project Area to confirm dewatering activities do not affect residential water supplies.
Blasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of explosives in or near water will be avoided; however, if required, will follow applicable permit requirements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blasting activities will follow best practices outlined in the Blasters Handbook and the Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blasting activities will be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Blasting on days of cultural importance will be avoided and identified in consultation with Indigenous groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blast Management Plan will guide safe and controlled blasting practices and address associated risks including flyrock and infrastructure damage.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fugitive dust emissions will be controlled by adjusting the crushing rate and the blast size.

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Vehicles / Equipment / Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning efficient waste rock and ore haulage will be implemented to reduce amount of fuel consumed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices to reduce idling of mining vehicles and equipment will be implemented, where practicable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of biodiesel or renewable diesel (up to manufacturer-recommended blend) will be considered where commercially available to reduce combustion-related GHG emissions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel use will be tracked to identify inefficiencies and support adaptive management of equipment performance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles and equipment (including generators) will be equipped with proper exhaust systems and include regular inspections, servicing, and maintenance to reduce emissions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mufflers will be checked to maintain proper functioning.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment maintenance and fueling will be conducted in designated areas.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drip pans and inspections will be used to prevent leaks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust generated by truck movement along the site roads will be reduced by speed control, proper truck loading, application of water to suppress, and proper road maintenance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water or an environmentally acceptable alternative will be used to reduce dust generation on unpaved roads.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste oil will not be used for dust control. Other agents such as calcium chloride may be used with regulatory approval.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle use will be restricted to designated routes to reduce emissions and disturbance. Vehicles and equipment will be operated within previously cleared or disturbed areas, wherever feasible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization will be given to purchasing off-road equipment that meets the most stringent available emission standards, including the latest applicable tier of the <i>Off-Road Compression-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations</i>.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive areas will not be entered by motorized vehicles without prior approval from the Mine Manager and/or the Environment Department.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog mats will be used to reduce impacts in wetland areas that may serve as wildlife habitat.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Traffic Management Plan will encourage carpooling and require Project drivers and employees to observe speed limits and take safety precautions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When practicable, shift changes and truck movements will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic hours and school bus pick-up and drop-off times. 	

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Light Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project lighting will be optimized and limited to what is necessary for safe and efficient Project activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting design guidelines will be followed, such as the Commission Internationale de L'Éclairage, International Dark Sky Association, Illuminating Engineering Society.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full cut-off luminaires will be used where practicable to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow from the Project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting will be designed to avoid excessive use of mobile flood lighting units and will be turned off when they are not needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, mobile and permanent lighting will be located such that unavoidable light spill off the working area is not directed toward receptors outside of the Project Area.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic sensors or strobe lighting will be used in areas where continuous lighting is not essential.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light fixtures will be located so that they are not directed toward oncoming traffic on nearby roads on or off site.
Materials Handling and Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WMP will be updated and implemented to include wastes associated with Project components and activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock materials with ML/ARD potential will be characterized prior to construction in accordance with the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage program's <i>Prediction Manual for Drainage Chemistry from Sulphidic Geologic Materials</i>.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ML/ARD Management Plan will be implemented to guide testing, handling, and treatment of PAG materials. Ongoing geochemical testing will inform adaptive management of waste rock and contact water handling.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste rock used for upgrading or constructing Project infrastructure (e.g., roads), or used during site rehabilitation and closure, will consist of non-ML/ARD-generating material.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAG waste rock and the remaining MMBCG (at the end of the mine life) will be placed in a mined-out pit. The need for waste rock piles to include engineered bases and drainage controls to reduce ML/ARD risk is being evaluated.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid waste will be handled according to the NL <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>, prioritizing recycling/reuse.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste storage areas will include measures to reduce the attraction of wildlife (e.g., secure containers, regular removal).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous materials will be stored in appropriately labeled containers in designated areas.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solvents used for parts cleaning will be stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with hazardous materials management protocols.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste oil and filters will be removed from the site for proper disposal and recycling.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosives will be handled, transported, stored and used by a licensed contractor employing trained and qualified personnel. 	

Table 4.31 Standard Mitigation Measures

Activity	Mitigation
Rehabilitation and Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desired land and resource end-uses will be considered in the preparation of the RCP.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas which are temporarily disturbed by the Project and no longer required will be progressively reclaimed, with the objective of returning them to as close as possible to, or better than, baseline conditions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas where natural revegetation may take longer to establish will be seeded to mitigate against erosion and sedimentation development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure rehabilitation will involve complete demolition and removal of site infrastructure, re-vegetation of disturbed areas, removal of contaminated materials if applicable, water management, and reshaping the landscape.

4.10 Project Alternatives

Below are the evaluations of the Project alternatives. This evaluation includes a review of both the alternative options to the Project itself (Section 4.10.1) and the potential alternative methods for its implementation (Section 4.10.2).

4.10.1 Alternatives to the Project

The purpose of the Project is to transition from exploration to full-scale mining operations, to unlock valuable mineral resources, support regional economic growth, and strengthen Canada's and NL's position in the global mining sector. There is no alternative to mining the gold resource located at the Queensway property that would achieve the purpose and need for the Project. The Project will provide employment to the region, increase business activity in the region and in the province, and provide revenue to the province. Not proceeding would mean losing substantial regional socio-economic benefits.

There are alternatives to the methods employed to mine the resource that are described in the following sections.

4.10.2 Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project

Alternative methods for executing a project include technically and economically feasible options for its implementation. These may include different locations for infrastructure, various routes for project components, diverse development and implementation methods, and potential mitigation measures.

Alternatives were assessed by comparing biophysical environment, socio-economic, technical, and cost factors. Internal scoping studies assessed various alternative means to carry out the Project and applied these factors to identify options that are “preferred”, “acceptable”, or “unacceptable”. Generally, an alternative was rated as “preferred” where a benefit was derived from its implementation. A rating of “acceptable” was assigned when the option was deemed either technically and/or economically feasible though it could have some impact on other factors (i.e., environment, socio-economic). However, with the implementation of Project mitigation measures, these impacts would likely not result in a substantial change. Alternatives were deemed “unacceptable” where it would be unfeasible or would result in an unacceptably negative outcome.

New Found Gold evaluated alternatives for the Project during its pre-feasibility and design studies, considering technical, economic, and environmental factors. Alternatives for the following were reviewed:

- Processing
- Mining methods
- Pre-concentration
- Project component locations

The alternative rationale for the chosen approach is detailed below.

4.10.2.1 Processing

New Found Gold evaluated several options for processing ore from the Project. The description of Project components and activities in Sections 4.4 and 4.5 accurately reflects the selected alternative, which is to process the ore off site at a permitted and operating facility. Two off-site processing facilities were considered (i.e., the Nugget Pond and Pine Cove mills). The Pine Cove facility has been selected as the preferred option, as it is permitted and operating, and New Found Gold has acquired the facility via the acquisition of Maritime Resources. Modifications required to process ore from the Project will be addressed through amendments to current permits and approvals for the Pine Cove facility as discussed in Section 4.6.

New Found Gold also evaluated the potential for on-site processing, which would involve installing a modular processing unit at the Project site and in-pit tailings deposition in a small pit that could be mined out quickly. Table 4.32 provides additional information on the technical and economic feasibility of the alternatives that were considered, along with environmental and socio-economic considerations. While each alternative is considered technically feasible, New Found Gold conducted trade-off studies to consider the economics of each option. From an environmental and socio-economic perspective, use of an off-site, existing and approved facility would reduce environmental disturbance at the Project site and make use of existing tailings storage capacity. However, it also represents an increase in indirect GHG emissions associated with trucking ore to the processing facility. Constructing and operating an on-site modular processing facility would result in a larger Project footprint, increased on-site emissions, and the need to manage tailings deposition at the Project site.

Table 4.32 Summary of Processing Options

Determining Factors	Options Considered	
	On-site Processing	Off-site Processing
Technically Feasible (including regulatory factors)	Yes	Yes
Economically Feasible (including market factors)	Yes, but increased capital cost and closure liability associated with on-site tailings deposition	Yes, but requires facility upgrades and long-distance hauling of ore
Environmental and Socio-economic Considerations	Increased on-site air emissions and management of tailings, which could be addressed with mitigation	Additional traffic volumes on public roads and short-term environmental disturbance during upgrades, which can be addressed with mitigation
Preferred Option – carried forward in this Environmental Registration	-	✓

4.10.2.2 Mining Methods

Options considered for mining methods included open pit mining and underground mining (Table 4.33). However, since the deposit starts at or near surface and is amenable to open pit mining, which is a lower cost and more productive method, the underground mining was discounted. Traditional open pit mining method will be employed at the Project. Drilling and blasting will be used to fragment the rock, followed by the loading and hauling of the broken material using excavators and haul trucks. Waste rock will be transported to designated storage facilities, while ore will be sent to stockpiles for later processing.

Table 4.33 Summary of Mining Method Options

Determining Factors	Options Considered	
	Open Pit	Underground
Technically Feasible (including regulatory factors)	Yes	Yes
Economically Feasible (including market factors)	Yes	No – more expensive
Environmental and Socio-economic Considerations	Can be addressed with mitigation	-
Preferred Option – carried forward in this Environmental Registration	✓	-

4.10.2.3 Pre-Concentration

Pre-concentration or “sensor-based sorting” is a technology that separates ore from waste rock by using sensors together with compressed air jets. There are no chemicals used in this process. New Found Gold has been testing this innovative technology as part of its ongoing studies. In this process, RoM ore is delivered from the pit to the crushing plant where it is crushed and screened. Coarse particles measuring 12 to 50 mm are conveyed to a pre-concentration plant where they are scanned and separated with jets of compressed air based on their scanned results. The desired particles are then combined with the screened RoM fines (<12 mm) and loaded into trucks for delivery to a processing plant. Rejected material is then stockpiled with MMBCG.

The advantage of pre-concentration is that it removes waste or MMBCG before it is hauled and processed at a mill. This provides a substantial revenue increase by upgrading the ore prior to shipping, and cost savings by reducing the number of trucks on the highway. GHG emissions are also reduced through having fewer total trucks on the road. Additionally, energy and reagent savings can be realized by not milling and processing waste rock. A reduction in the volume of waste processed through the mill also reduces the volume of tailings in the TMF, reducing the risk of volume restrictions in the future.

As outlined above and in Table 4.34, there are many benefits to the use of the ore sorting/pre-concentration technology. However, since testwork is ongoing, a final decision on the inclusion of the technology is still pending, and therefore both crushing and sorting, and crushing only, are being carried forward as options at this point. The testwork is being conducted to determine if the technology assists in reducing the amount of material requiring transport to the processing facility.

Table 4.34 Summary of Pre-concentration Options

Determining Factors	Options Considered	
	Pre-concentration	No Pre-concentration
Technically Feasible (including regulatory factors)	Yes – Testwork still ongoing	Yes
Economically Feasible (including market factors)	Yes – Revenue increase	Yes
Environmental and Socio-economic Considerations	Reduces the number of trucks on the highway Reduces the volume of waste processed through the mill and tailings in the TMF	
Preferred Option – carried forward in this Environmental Registration	✓	✓

4.10.2.4 Project Component Locations

There are alternatives to the placement of several key Project components (e.g., waste rock and overburden storage facilities, explosives storage area). In general, New Found Gold selected and planned the Project development and infrastructure placement to increase use of:

- Areas unlikely to directly or indirectly affect wetlands or other sensitive landscape features located within or outside the proposed mine footprint
- Areas that reduced potential to impact Gander Lake as a PPWSA
- Areas that reduced potential to impact the Gander River, recognizing its importance as a popular recreational fishing and tourism area
- Areas that reduced potential for conflict with local land and resource users
- Areas that met the non-sterilization requirements associated with the *Mining Act*

The Project has been planned to limit potential adverse environmental effects while maintaining socio-economic benefits for the region and for the province as a whole. Specifically, a study was completed to assess mine waste disposal locations. The mine waste disposal alternatives were initially assessed by Knight Piésold Ltd. (KP) in 2023 and later reviewed and supplemented by Stantec Consulting Ltd. in 2024 (Stantec 2024e). KP's assessment followed ECCC's Multiple Accounts Analysis (MAA) guidelines, focusing on technical, environmental, and economic factors. KP identified four primary Mine Waste Management Facility (MWMF) layout options based on three conceptual approaches. Note that at the time of the study a combined waste rock and tailings facility was being considered for the Project. Since that time, the Project design has evolved to include off-site milling and therefore no need for on-site tailings disposal. However, the evaluation completed is still applicable to the siting of the waste rock and overburden storage facilities. As socio-economic factors were not considered in KP's evaluation, Stantec conducted a supplemental review focused on broader environmental and social considerations.

Stantec developed four additional MWMF layout options (Options 1-4; Figure 4.23) using KP's preferred alternative (Concept 3-III) as a baseline. Option 1 and 2 were closest to the resource area, offering lower operating costs, while Options 3 and 4 were located farther northeast to avoid sensitive areas like the TCH, Gander Lake PPWSA, and the T'Railway.

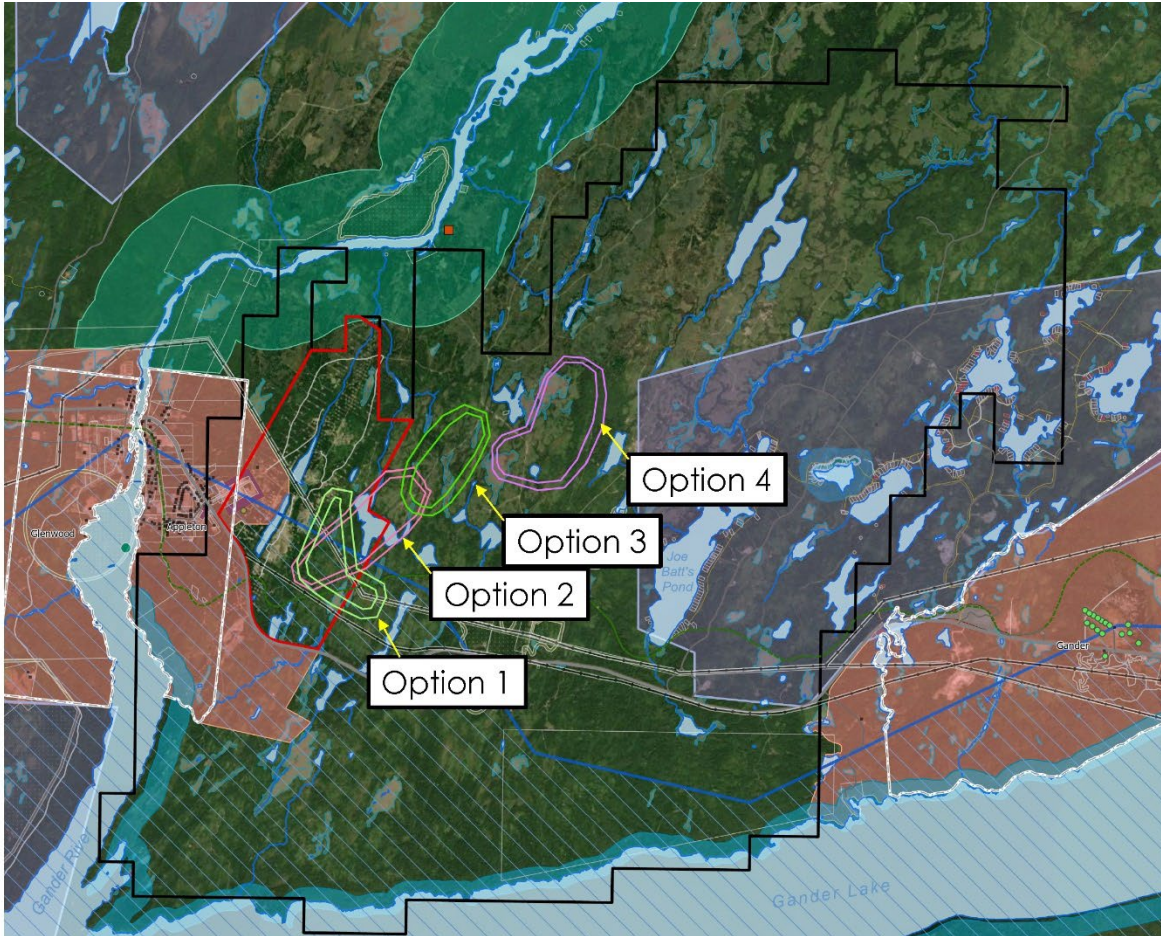


Figure 4.23 Alternate Locations of Mine Waste Disposal (Stantec 2024e)

The selection criteria for evaluating these sites included biophysical constraints (e.g., overlap with fish-bearing waters, proximity to Gander River, sub-watershed impacts), socio-economic factors (e.g., proximity to municipalities, recreational areas, and cottage developments), and regulatory considerations (e.g., PPWSA restrictions, agricultural land use, and crown leases). Each site was assigned a risk category from 1 (no constraints) to 4 (not feasible), based on the severity of these constraints. Notably, overlapping sub-watersheds draining to Gander Lake or Joe Batt's Pond, proximity to the TCH building control line, and overlap with designated agricultural areas and fault zones were key factors that elevated risk levels.

Ultimately, Stantec concluded that all options except Option 3 presented constraints that placed them in Risk Category 3, indicating potential feasibility but with substantial regulatory, cost, or public perception risks. Option 3 was rated as Category 2, suggesting manageable risks. The current planned locations of the WRSF and overburden storage facility are based on Option 3. While the review did not include detailed engineering or a full MAA, it provided a comprehensive framework for New Found Gold to guide future baseline studies and refine site selection (i.e., the locations of the waste rock and overburden storage facilities). The report emphasized that further design modifications could reduce constraints and improve feasibility across the proposed alternatives.

4.10.2.5 Pit Development Schedule

An eight-pit development schedule had been prepared and presented to regulators. Based on feedback during regulatory consultation and continued refinements of overall Project design, it was determined that the eight-pit scenario does not align with provincial objectives for prudent resource management under the *Mining Act*. Refinement of the pit development schedule identified a four-pit scenario aimed at maximizing the benefits of the resource. This preferred scenario considers prudent resource management through the elimination of partial pit development, including mining Keats pit in its entirety. A summary of pit development options is provided in Table 4.35.

Table 4.35 Summary of Pit Development Options

Determining Factors	Options Considered	
	Eight Pit Scenario	Four Pit Scenario
Technically Feasible (including regulatory factors)	No – Eight pit scenario does not align with provincial objectives	Yes – aims to maximize the benefits of the resource
Economically Feasible (including market factors)	-	Yes
Environmental and Socio-economic Considerations	-	Reduced initial Project footprint Shorter LoM
Preferred Option – carried forward in this Environmental Registration	-	✓

4.11 References

- CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment). 2025. Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life. Available online at: <https://ccme.ca/en/resources/water-aquatic-life>
- COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). 2010. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* (Nunavik population, Labrador population, Northeast Newfoundland population, South Newfoundland population, Southwest Newfoundland population, Northwest Newfoundland population, Quebec Eastern North Shore population, Quebec Western North Shore population, Anticosti Island population, Inner St. Lawrence population, Lake Ontario population, Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population, Eastern Cape Breton population, Nova Scotia Southern Upland population, Inner Bay of Fundy population, Outer Bay of Fundy population) in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa, ON. xvii + 136 pp.
- DFO (Fisheries and Oceans Canada). 2023. Threats to fish and fish habitat in the watersheds of Newfoundland and Labrador. Habitat Highlights. Available online: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/habitat/highlights-faitssailants/nfl-tnl/overview-apercu-eng.html>
- ECCC (Environment and Climate Change Canada). 2020. Strategic assessment of climate change. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/assessments/strategic-assessments/climate-change.html>
- ECCC. 2022. Draft technical guide related to the strategic assessment of climate change: Guidance on quantification of net GHG emissions, impact on carbon sinks, mitigation measures, net-zero plan and upstream GHG assessment. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/transparency/consultations/draft-technical-guide-strategic-assessment-climate-change.html>
- ECCC. 2023. About the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. Available online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/facility-reporting/about.html>.
- ECCC. 2025a. 1991-2020 Climate Normals for Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador. Available at: https://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_normals/index_e.html
- ECCC. 2025b. National Inventory Report 1990-2023: Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Canada. Available online at: <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.506002/publication.html>.
- Environment Canada. 2009. Environmental Code of Practice for Metal Mines. Environmental Stewardship Branch. Available online: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2009/ec/En4-107-2009E.pdf
- Environmental Design and Management Ltd. 1996. Watershed Management Plan for Gander Lake and its Catchment. Prepared by Environmental Design and Management Ltd. In association with R.H. Louks Oceanology Limited and Jaques Whitford Environmental Limited for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Environment Canada.

- ERD (Explosives Regulatory Division). 2025. Separation distances for explosives (RP-05-04). Natural Resources Canada. Available online: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/mineralsmetals/pdf/Separation%20Distances%20for%20Explosives%2C%20Jan%2C%202025.pdf>
- GEMTEC. 2023a. Terrestrial Ecology Baseline Report New Found Gold Corporation Queensway North Gold Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- GEMTEC. 2023b. Aquatic Summary Report New Found Gold Corporation Queensway North Gold Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- GEMTEC. 2023c. Preliminary Baseline Hydrogeology Study New Found Gold Corp. Queensway North Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp. July 19, 2023. Project number: 100424.001
- GEMTEC 2023d. Hydrology Baseline Report New Found Gold Corporation Queensway North Gold Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- GEMTEC. 2024a. Terrestrial Ecology Baseline Report New Found Gold Corporation Queensway North Gold Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- GEMTEC. 2024b. Muskrat Study. New Found Gold Corporation. Queensway North Gold Project, Appleton, NL. Report prepared for New Found Gold Corp. dated March 12, 2024.
- GEMTEC. 2024c. 2023 Baseline Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Studies, Queensway North Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp. April 10, 2024. Project number: 100424.004.
- GEMTEC. 2024d. 2023 Hydrology Baseline Report New Found Gold Corp. Queensway North Gold Project. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Government of Canada. 2025. Critical Habitat for Species at Risk National Dataset – Canada. Available online: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/47caa405-be2b-4e9e-8f53-c478ade2ca74>
- Health Canada. 2025. Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Available Online: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality/guidelines-canadian-drinking-water-quality-summary-table/summary-table-pdf-template-eng.pdf>
- ISEE (International Society of Explosives Engineers). 2016. Blasters' handbook (18th ed.). ISEE Publications.
- Meades, S.J. 1990. Natural Regions Study of Newfoundland and Labrador. Protected Areas Association. St. John's, NL. 379 pp.
- MEND. 2009. Prediction manual for drainage chemistry from sulphidic geologic materials (MEND Report 1.20.1). CANMET Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories. Available online: https://mend-nedem.org/wp-content/uploads/1.20.1_PredictionManual.pdf
- NLDECC (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change). 2017. A Guidance Document for Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Large Industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. Available online: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccc/files/greenhouse-gas-data-ghg-reporting-guidance-document.pdf>

- PAANL (Protected Areas Association of Newfoundland and Labrador). 2008. Central Newfoundland Forest: 2a North-central subregion. Available online: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/natural-areas-pdf-island-2a-north-central.pdf>
- British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines. 1998. Guidelines for Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage at Mine Sites in British Columbia.
- Stantec (Stantec Consulting Ltd.). 2023. NFG Queensway North Project: Historic Resources Overview Assessment. Report on file at the Provincial Archaeology Office, Newfoundland and Labrador's Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation, St. John's, NL.
- Stantec. 2024a. New Found Gold Baseline Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Technical Data Report. Summary of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Results. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2024b. New Found Gold Ecological Land Classification Technical Data Report. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2024c. New Found Gold - Environmental Technical Data Report - 2023 Aquatic Baseline Study. Draft Report. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2024d. NFG Queensway North Gold Project: Historic Resources Impact Assessment (2023). Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2024e. Review of Queensway Project Mine Waste Disposal Alternatives Assessment (Draft Report No. 121418077). Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2025a. Surface Water Baseline Report. July 2025. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Stantec. 2025b. Queensway North Property - 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Program. July 5, 2025. Prepared for New Found Gold Corp.
- Sullivan, R., N. Glines-Bovio, K.N. Rogers, J.H. McCarty, D. Korzilius, and H. Hartmann. 2023. Night Sky and Dark Environments: Best Management Practices for Artificial Light at Night on BLM-Managed Lands. Tech Note 457. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Denver, CO.
- Town of Appleton. 2020. Town of Appleton Municipal Plan (2017-2027). Available online: https://www.gov.nl.ca/mpa/files/LGLUP-Appleton_MP.pdf
- Wildlife Division. 2010. Management Plan for the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) in Newfoundland and Labrador. Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Corner Brook. Canada. v + 29 pp. Available online: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/wildlife-endangeredspecies-american-eel-management-plan.pdf>

5 Engagement

New Found Gold is committed to ongoing engagement with the public, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders that may be affected by the Project. This is consistent with section 58 of the Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) *Environmental Protection Act*, which requires public consultation for the Project. The Act requires that proponents offer opportunities for community members near a project site to meet and discuss its potential effects. This process informs potentially affected individuals and documents local concerns about environmental effects. The following section details New Found Gold's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (Section 5.1), engagement that has been conducted to date in support of the Project (Section 5.2), and feedback received to date (Section 5.3).

5.1 Overview of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

New Found Gold fosters relationships with stakeholders in NL in the area it operates. It strives to balance economic growth with community effects by engaging the public, Indigenous groups, government departments, and other stakeholders. Through formal and informal sessions, New Found Gold gathers feedback to align our work activities with community needs and expectations.

New Found Gold has developed and implemented a formal Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) to guide engagement throughout the life of the Project. This Strategy provides a clear framework for communication, participation, and relationship-building, which has been initiated during Project planning and regulatory review, and supports meaningful involvement of communities, Indigenous groups, regulators, and other stakeholders. As part of this approach, New Found Gold will hold regular community meetings, open forums, and regulatory consultations designed to promote transparency and mutual understanding. By maintaining open communication, incorporating knowledge held by stakeholders, and addressing concerns raised by local residents, New Found Gold can mitigate potential conflicts. The Strategy emphasizes transparency and inclusion, with the goal of strengthening community trust and supporting sustainable development practices that respect the social, cultural, and environmental values of the region. New Found Gold also works closely with government agencies to comply with regulatory requirements and integrate best practices in environmental stewardship. As the Project advances, New Found Gold remains committed to implementing this Strategy and working collaboratively with stakeholders to contribute positively to the well-being and prosperity of the province.

Consistent with provincial environmental assessment (EA) expectations, New Found Gold will apply an adaptive management approach to engagement and mitigation. Feedback received during engagement will be reviewed alongside monitoring results and regulatory guidance to identify opportunities to refine mitigation measures, monitoring programs, and engagement practices. Where monitoring or engagement identifies unanticipated effects or concerns, New Found Gold will work with regulators and stakeholders to identify appropriate responses. The Strategy will be reviewed periodically and updated as Project activities, regulatory requirements, or stakeholder interests evolve.

In addition to formal engagement, New Found Gold has actively participated in local events through volunteering and has provided opportunities for sponsorships, reinforcing its commitment to community involvement. New Found Gold also launched a formal community sponsorship policy and application process in January 2026, under which sponsorship requests are collected and reviewed monthly, with approvals guided by established community sponsorship criteria. Requests can be emailed to community@newfoundgold.ca or submitted through a detailed online form. This proactive approach reflects the company's dedication to clear communication and fostering local support as the Project advances. New Found Gold also provided support to the Government of NL during the wildfires in the summer of 2025, by providing assistance to front-line teams through provision of essential supplies such as bottled electrolytes, water, snacks, and meals.

5.1.1 Objectives of the Engagement Strategy

The Strategy is built around the following objectives:

- Provide a clear and consistent framework for engagement
- Meet or exceed regulatory engagement expectations at the municipal, provincial and federal levels
- Build and maintain respectful, long-term relationships
- Identify and understand interests, concerns, and opportunities early
- Demonstrate how engagement meaningfully informs Project planning and decision-making

Engagement is intended to be ongoing, two-way, and proportional to the scale and potential effects of Project activities. Planned activities are designed to educate and involve surrounding communities, maintain interest in Project developments, gather input from participants, and support outreach that reaches a broad demographic. Engagement materials and activities will be designed to be accessible in accordance with relevant legislation, including NL's *Accessibility Act (2021)*.

5.1.2 Engagement Principles and Approach

New Found Gold's engagement approach aligns with recognized industry best practices and the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation. This framework promotes engagement that is transparent, inclusive, and aligned with the level of influence stakeholders may have on Project planning.

The Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- Early and proactive engagement
- Clear, accurate, and accessible information
- Cultural respect and inclusivity
- Transparency in decision-making
- Responsiveness and follow-up
- Thorough documentation and continuous improvement

In practice, engagement will generally progress from “*Inform and Consult*” toward “*Involve and Collaborate*”, particularly for Indigenous communities and stakeholders who may be directly affected by Project activities. This approach supports the development of strong, long-term relationships and helps guide the thoughtful incorporation of feedback into Project planning, mitigation, and monitoring programs.

5.1.3 Identification of Indigenous Communities and Other Stakeholders

Stakeholders have been identified based on proximity to the Project, potential to be directly or indirectly affected by Project activities, regulatory authority, and demonstrated interest in mineral exploration and development. Groups identified (in addition to the general public) include the following:

- Indigenous Groups and Organizations** - New Found Gold recognizes the important role of Indigenous peoples in the province and their contributions to environmental knowledge. Adequate engagement is necessary to identify the concerns of Indigenous groups early in Project planning so that they can be appropriately addressed and mitigated. Through reviewing the history of Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and engaging with Indigenous organizations, it has been identified that members of these groups reside in communities across central Newfoundland. Indigenous groups on the island include the Qalipu First Nation (Qalipu), whose membership is distributed across 67 traditional Mi'kmaq communities and beyond, and the Miawpukek First Nation (Miawpukek), with approximately 850 members living on-reserve in Conne River on Newfoundland's south coast.

Qalipu members reside in communities near the Project Area, and New Found Gold has been actively engaging with Qalipu representatives and members early in the Project planning process (see Section 5.2.2). While there are no designated Indigenous lands within the Project Area, the Qalipu may be affected by Project activities. The Qalipu is a Mi'kmaq First Nation established in 2011 under the *Indian Act*. Although the Qalipu does not have reserve land, it represents members across 67 communities in nine Electoral Wards throughout Western and central Newfoundland. Engagement with these groups is being conducted to obtain their views on how the Project may affect Indigenous peoples and interests. Input received through meetings, correspondence, and engagement sessions is being documented and considered in Project design, mitigation measures, monitoring programs, and engagement planning. Where feedback cannot be incorporated, rationale will be communicated.

- Municipal and Local Government** - Municipal governments are key partners with interests in land use compatibility, infrastructure, emergency response, housing, workforce accommodation, and local economic development. Municipal input will inform traffic planning, workforce accommodation strategies, emergency response coordination, and communication materials. Feedback will be tracked and addressed through follow-up meetings or written responses.
- Provincial Regulators and Agencies** - Provincial regulators have statutory authority over EA, permitting, land use, worker safety, and resource management. Regulatory feedback will be incorporated through permit conditions, revisions to Project plans, and ongoing compliance and reporting processes.
- Federal Regulators and Agencies** - Federal agencies regulate fisheries, wildlife, explosives, transportation, and Indigenous consultation, where applicable. Federal requirements and guidance will be integrated into Project planning, mitigation measures, and monitoring programs.

- **Industry, Labour, and Economic Development** - Industry, labour, and economic development organizations have interests in workforce development, labour standards, training, and regional economic growth. Input will inform workforce planning, training initiatives, and local procurement strategies.
- **Non-Government Organizations** - Environmental and community organizations have interests in watershed protection, wildlife, recreation, land access, and community safety. Feedback will be considered in environmental mitigation, monitoring programs, and access management planning.
- **Media** - Media organizations play a role in public awareness and information dissemination. Media inquiries and coverage will inform communication approaches and clarification of public-facing materials.

5.1.4 Engagement Methods and Tools

New Found Gold will use engagement methods that have been selected based on stakeholder category, level of interest, and potential Project effects, and are consistent to meet the expectations in NL.

Methods may include:

- Project website and dedicated contact email
- Written notifications, newsletters, and factsheets
- Meetings with Indigenous communities, municipalities, stakeholders, and regulators
- Public open houses and information sessions (virtual or in-person)
- Presentations to town councils and community organizations
- Traditional and social media updates
- Surveys, comment forms, and feedback mechanisms

Engagement frequency and intensity will be proportionate to Project phase and potential effects. Table 5.1 identifies the key engagement approaches for the groups identified in Section 5.1.3.

Table 5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Group	Primary Interests	Potential Project Interactions	Engagement Approach
Indigenous Communities	Indigenous rights, land and resource use, environmental protection, economic participation	Land access, water use, environmental effects, employment and contracting	Early and ongoing meetings, information sharing, issue tracking, collaboration where appropriate
Municipal Governments	Infrastructure, traffic, housing, emergency services, local benefits	Increased traffic, workforce presence, service demand	Council briefings, direct meetings, written updates
Provincial Regulators (NL)	Environmental protection, regulatory compliance	Permitting, monitoring, reporting	Pre-application meetings, submissions, ongoing coordination
Federal Regulators	Fisheries, wildlife, explosives, transportation	Authorizations and inspections	Targeted coordination as required

Table 5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Group	Primary Interests	Potential Project Interactions	Engagement Approach
Industry and Labour	Employment, training, safety	Workforce recruitment and training	Partnerships, information sessions
NGOs and Community Groups	Watersheds, wildlife, recreation, safety	Land disturbance, access management	Targeted outreach, information sharing
Media	Public information	Public awareness	News releases, media inquiries

5.1.4.1 Engagement Schedule and Approach

New Found Gold's current Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is tied to key Project milestones, as opposed to specific dates. The milestones include:

- Milestone 1: Acquisition Integration & Exploration
- Milestone 2: Resource Update or Major Technical Disclosure
- Milestone 3: Early Project Description (Pre-EA)
- Milestone 4: Environmental Registration
- Milestone 5: EA Review & Post-EA Decision
- Milestone 6: Construction & Operation
- Milestone 7: Rehabilitation and Closure

For Milestones 1 to 3, New Found Gold focused on the following engagement activities:

- Introducing the Project to stakeholders
- Confirming Indigenous consultation protocols with the Qalipu and Miawpukek
- Developing a stakeholder contact registry
- Launching and maintaining a Project webpage and social media channels
- Conducting baseline land and resource use surveys
- Holding one-on-one introductory meetings with stakeholders
- Establishing Stakeholder Engagement Groups representing municipalities, Indigenous groups, fish and wildlife interests, and recreation and land users
- Providing municipal council presentations and technical updates to stakeholders, including information on the Project description and studies undertaken to date
- Holding public information sessions

The Project is currently progressing through Milestone 4: Environmental Registration. At this stage, New Found Gold is focused on submitting formal EA documentation to Indigenous governments, municipalities, and regulators, and advancing consultation activities that support the regulatory review process. Engagement efforts during this milestone include in-person meetings with Indigenous groups, municipal briefings, public information sessions, and targeted discussions with land and water users. These activities reflect New Found Gold's ongoing commitment to transparent communication and meaningful participation as the Project moves through the EA phase.

New Found Gold is committed to ongoing engagement throughout the life of the Project. Following release of the Project from the EA process, the following activities are planned:

- Providing a plain-language EA decision summary to stakeholders
- Meeting with Indigenous groups to discuss EA conditions of release, monitoring, and on-going participation
- Meeting with the communities to explain EA conditions of release, environmental protection measures, and employment and procurement opportunities
- Establish Queensway Community Participation Committees (CPCs) with representation from the municipalities, Indigenous communities, fisheries and watershed groups, and recreation and cabin owners

During construction and operation, New Found Gold will maintain the CPC meetings, provide community updates, annual engagement sessions with Indigenous Groups, and publish environmental monitoring results. The engagement process will be adaptive to feedback received from stakeholder and reviewed and modified as needed. During the rehabilitation and closure phase, New Found Gold would plan to hold Indigenous and municipal planning sessions on land reuse and post-closure access, final CPC reviews, and public disclosure of reclamation performance and long-term monitoring.

5.1.5 Reporting and Record Keeping

New Found Gold is maintaining comprehensive records of engagement activities. Records include engagement logs, meeting summaries, correspondence, issues raised, responses provided, and tracking of commitments and follow-up actions.

Engagement records are being used to:

- Demonstrate compliance with regulatory engagement requirements
- Support the Environmental Registration and permitting processes
- Inform adaptive management and mitigation refinement
- Provide transparency and accountability in how feedback is considered
- Where appropriate, engagement outcomes will be summarized and reported to regulators and stakeholders through Project updates, registration documentation, or follow-up communications.

Engagement logs are tracked and managed through NetBenefit software, developed by a NL-based firm. This cloud-based software is used for stakeholder management, commitments management, and benefits tracking. Use of this software supports New Found Gold's social license to operate and better quantify its socio-economic impacts in the community.

5.1.6 Grievance Management Procedure

New Found Gold is committed to addressing community and Indigenous concerns in a fair, transparent, and timely manner. This grievance management process provides a structured mechanism for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and stakeholders to raise concerns related to New Found Gold's activities and to have those concerns resolved in a consistent and respectful manner.

This procedure supports New Found Gold's Indigenous & Community Relations Policy and the Mining Association of Canada's Towards Sustainable Mining Indigenous and Community Relationships Protocol.

This procedure applies to concerns, complaints, or grievances related to New Found Gold's:

- Exploration, development, or operational activities
- Environmental impacts
- Health and safety issues
- Noise, dust, traffic, or access
- Employment or procurement practices
- Conduct of New Found Gold employees or contractors

It applies to communities, Indigenous groups, land users, and stakeholders affected by New Found Gold's activities. Grievances will be handled in accordance with the following principles:

- Accessibility – Grievances can be submitted verbally, in writing, or electronically
- Fairness – Concerns will be treated seriously and impartially
- Transparency – Processes and outcomes will be clearly communicated
- Confidentiality – Personal information will be protected
- Non-retaliation – No person will face retaliation for raising a concern
- Timeliness – Responses and resolutions will be provided promptly

Table 5.2 outlines the key stages and processes planned as part of the grievance management procedure.

Table 5.2 Summary of Grievance Management Procedure

Submission Process	Grievance Handling Procedures	Tracking and Reporting
Grievances may be submitted through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person meetings with New Found Gold staff • Telephone or voicemail • Email or online form • Written submission to New Found Gold offices • Community liaison or Indigenous representative Grievances will be recorded in NetBenefit.	<u>Receipt and Logging</u> Grievances are logged within 5 business days, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date received • Complainant (if provided) • Nature of concern • Location • Responsible department 	New Found Gold will track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grievances received • Types of issues • Resolution time • Outcomes This information will be reviewed regularly by management and included in New Found Gold’s Corporate Social Responsibility and Towards Sustainable Mining reporting.
	<u>Acknowledgement</u> The complainant will receive confirmation that the grievance has been received within 10 business days.	
	<u>Assessment and Investigation</u> New Found Gold will assess the issue, determine root causes, and identify corrective actions. Relevant departments, contractors, or community representatives may be involved.	
	<u>Response and Resolution</u> New Found Gold will propose a response or solution and communicate it to the complainant within 30 days, unless a longer timeframe is required.	
	<u>Close-Out</u> Once a solution is agreed upon or implemented, the grievance will be formally closed and documented.	
	<u>Appeal</u> If the complainant is not satisfied, the grievance may be escalated to senior management for review.	

Grievance data will be analyzed to identify trends, recurring issues, and opportunities to improve Project design, engagement practices, and mitigation measures. The Corporate Social Responsibility Manager will be responsible for maintaining the grievance system and confirming grievances are addressed in accordance with this procedure.

5.2 Results of Stakeholder Engagement to Date

5.2.1 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

As outlined in Section 5.1, New Found Gold has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which has provided opportunities to share Project updates, present development plans, and respond to questions from community members and other stakeholders. Table 5.3 provides details of the public and stakeholder engagement conducted to date. Section 5.3 outlines the feedback received and how question and/or concerns are being addressed by New Found Gold. Engagement material is provided in Appendix 5.A.

New Found Gold hosted three open house events to share information with community members on the Project. The first open house was held on September 17, 2025 in the Town of Appleton (65 attendees), followed by a session on September 18, 2025 in the Town of Gander (26 attendees). A subsequent open house took place on January 21, 2026 in the Town of Appleton (63 attendees). These events provided opportunities for stakeholders to learn about the Project and offer feedback. Invites were issued through mail out postcards to households within the local area and also advertised through local town media pages. Postcard invites to the open houses is provided in Appendix 5.A.

In addition, New Found Gold has sponsored and/or participated in a number of community events which represent an opportunity for information engagement with the public. This has included the annual Central Minex Conference in Gander, community parades, and mining career events. New Found Gold has received letters of support from the Town of Appleton and the Town of Gander, they have been included in Appendix 5.B.

Table 5.3 Details of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Conducted to Date

Group / Event	Date	Method	Details
Local Municipalities			
Town of Appleton	2022–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Discussions with council on Project-related activities and ongoing site work, consultation
	March 15, 2022	In-person	New Found Gold provided a Project-related activities update and community engagement summary to Town Council
	June 29, 2022	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to provide Project updates for local residents
	November 8, 2022	Online	Meeting between Town Council and New Found Gold’s exploration team regarding permit applications for drilling within Town boundaries
	January 19, 2023	In-person	New Found Gold provided Project-related activities update and plans for 2023 exploration
	May 2, 2023	In-person	New Found Gold provided Project activities update and overview of the Water Quality Assessment and sampling program
	August 23, 2023	In-person	New Found Gold provided Project-related activities update, introduced Ron Hampton (former Chief Development Officer for New Found Gold) to Town Council
	October 10, 2023	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to discuss the Project with local residents
	October 12, 2023	In-person	Appleton Town Council attended a tour of the Keats Trenching Area
	March 12, 2024	In-person	New Found Gold provided Project-related activities update, introduced Jared Saunders (Vice President, Sustainability for New Found Gold) to Town Council

Table 5.3 Details of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Conducted to Date

Group / Event	Date	Method	Details
Town of Appleton	June 5, 2024	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to discuss the Project with local residents
	November 27, 2024	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to discuss the Project with local residents
	September 17, 2025	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to provide an update and discuss the Project with local residents
	January 21, 2026	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Appleton to provide an update and discuss the Project with local residents
Town of Gander	2024–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Provide Project updates, consultation
	September 18, 2025	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Gander to discuss the Project with local residents
	December 2, 2025	In-person	Meeting with Chief Administrative Officer to provide Project-related activities update
Town of Glenwood	2023–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Provide Project updates, consultation
	May 11, 2023	In-person	Meeting with Glenwood Fire Department to discuss needs and discuss annual donation
	October 10, 2023	In-person	Public information session for the Town of Glenwood to discuss the Project with local residents
	May 11, 2023	In-person	Meeting with Glenwood Fire Department to discuss sponsorships
	May 14, 2025	In-person	Meeting with Glenwood Fire Department to provide Donations
Economic & Industry Organizations			
Forestry Safety Association of NL	September 20, 2024	Phone Call	Discussion regarding Section 111 of the <i>Wild Life Regulations</i>
Geological Association of Canada – NL Section	September 29, 2023	In-person	Field tour
Lewisporte Chamber of Commerce	September 7, 2023	In-person	Presentation at the Annual General Meeting on operations and intent to retain business in central NL
Mining Industry NL	November 13, 2025	Online	Meeting to discuss upcoming youth outreach programs
Gander and Area Chamber of Commerce	December 2, 2025	In-person	Meeting to discuss plan to introduce a “Young Minds in Mining”/Student Discovery Day to the Central MinEx conference

Table 5.3 Details of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Conducted to Date

Group / Event	Date	Method	Details
Companies (Industry)			
Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited	July 2, 2025	In-person	Meeting to discuss Project
NL Hydro	August 1, 2025	Email	Discussion regarding Project details, including interconnection and line relocation
	September 2025–ongoing	Meetings	Biweekly meetings to discuss Project details, including interconnection and line relocation
	November 6, 2025	Meeting	Discussion regarding Project details, including interconnection and line relocation with Management
	December 12, 2025	Meeting	Discussion regarding conducting a System Impact Study for the Project
Newfoundland Power	August 1, 2025	Email	Discussion regarding Project details, including interconnection and line relocation
	September 2025–ongoing	Meetings	Biweekly meetings to discuss Project details, including interconnection and line relocation
Education & Schools			
NL English School District	May 4, 2023	In-person	Participated in career fair at Phoenix Academy (Carmanville)
	May 17, 2023	In-person	Participated in career fair at Jane Collins Academy (Hare Bay)
	May 25, 2023	In-person	Young Minds in Mining career fair at Valmont Academy (King's Point)
	October 17, 2023	In-person	Presentation on safety in exploration and mining at Smallwood Academy (Gambo)
	November 23, 2023	In-person	Participated in STEM Day at Gander Elementary
NL English School District	November 6, 2025	In-person	Organized a tour of the Mineral Resources Review tradeshow floor for students of Lakewood Academy
	November 20–22, 2025	In-person	Organized an outreach event at Gander Elementary, including classroom presentations and a guided tour of the Giga Shack (in conjunction with Mining NL)
	November 26, 2025	In-person	Organized an outreach event for Gander Academy, in conjunction with Mining NL
Community Associations and Local Resource Users			
Local Resident with Cabin	January 2026	In-person and Phone Call	Discussion of Project and potential mitigation for individual cabin owners in close proximity to the Project
Gander Area Snowmobile Club	July 3, 2025	Email	Discussion on corporate sponsorship
Local Moose Hunter	September 12, 2025	Phone Call	Discussion regarding hunting access in the area where the site is located

Table 5.3 Details of Public and Stakeholder Engagement Conducted to Date

Group / Event	Date	Method	Details
Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association	January 21, 2026	In-person	Provided a Project update ahead of EA submission, consultation
Atlantic Salmon Federation	February 2, 2026	Online	Provided a Project update ahead of EA submission, consultation
Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador	February 2, 2026	Online	Provided a Project update ahead of EA submission, consultation

5.2.2 Indigenous Engagement

New Found Gold first contacted the Qalipu in 2023 to introduce the Project and invite ongoing engagement. Since that time, New Found Gold has engaged in ongoing and productive dialogue with Qalipu, resulting in a strong and collaborative working relationship. New Found Gold has incorporated feedback from Qalipu to develop work programs that address the objectives of both organizations. Furthermore, New Found Gold actively supports Qalipu initiatives that promote cultural and environmental awareness. Details of this on-going engagement are provided in Table 5.4.

In addition, New Found Gold engaged the Qalipu in 2025 to gather current land use information and Traditional Knowledge as part of a Traditional Use Study (TUS) to better understand Qalipu members' land and resource use in the region surrounding the Project (Appendix 13.B). This work was carried out through the Qalipu's long-standing Traditional Knowledge program and focused on identifying whether traditional land use activities, such as hunting, small-game harvesting, fishing, and general land use, occur within or near the Project's Area of Interest. The provisional summary (Appendix 13.B) indicates that no active participant land use was identified within the Project's Area of Interest; however, traditional activities documented within 5 kilometres suggest the Project lies within a broader region of cultural significance. Feedback from this preliminary review has been considered in Project planning, and New Found Gold remains committed to ongoing engagement with Qalipu to further understand land and resource use and integrate Indigenous knowledge throughout Project development. Use of this information was provided under a special agreement with the Qalipu, and the analysis is still in progress; only a provisional summary is available at this time, with full findings forthcoming.

New Found Gold has also engaged with Miawpukek as part of these efforts to maintain open communication and provide opportunities for input (Table 5.4). New Found Gold has formally initiated participation in the Miawpukek project review process by engaging in consultation in accordance with the Miawpukek First Nation Consultation Protocol.

Table 5.4 Details of Indigenous Engagement Conducted to Date

Community	Date	Method	Details
Qalipu	May 23, 2023	Online	Introductory call with the Qalipu and discussion regarding Charlie's Place. Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council were also present
	2023–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Providing Project updates, engaging in consultation, and exploring collaborative approaches to work effectively with the Qalipu. Qalipu Holdings has also been part of meetings
	2024–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Working with the local representatives of the Qalipu to discuss the Project and any concerns raised
	May 5, 2025	Email and Online Meeting	Discussion regarding plans to conduct Boots and Hammer work in the Charlie's Place area
	July 3, 2025	Email and Online Meeting	Follow-up discussion on Project activity in Charlie's Place. New Found Gold proposes forming a working group with Qalipu members
	October 14, 2025–ongoing	In-person Meetings and Field Visits	Following a series of discussions, a joint working group was established between New Found Gold and Qalipu to coordinate plans for an upcoming fieldwork project in Charlie's Place
	November 12, 2025	Online	Discussion regarding the TUS Study
	November 18, 2025	Online	Follow-up discussion regarding the TUS Study
Miawpukek	June 15, 2023	Online meeting	Introductory meeting with the Miawpukek
	January 16, 2024	Online Meeting	Meeting postponed and a request to reschedule was sent
	2023–ongoing	Email, Phone Call, In-person	Providing Project updates, engaging in consultation, and exploring collaborative approaches to work effectively with the Miawpukek

5.2.3 Regulatory Engagement

Regulatory consultation has been ongoing in support of exploration at the site for several years, and the Project since 2024. This included discussion with NL Department of Energy and Mines on New Found Gold activities and plans at the site. In 2025, New Found Gold initiated conversations with the NL Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, EA Division to communicate the conceptual design of the Project and advise of their intent to register the Project. A draft Environmental Registration was submitted to the EA Division on October 9, 2025. New Found Gold organized a meeting with applicable provincial and federal regulators on October 27, 2025 to present the Project concept and to request information and guidance from regulators on the draft Environmental Registration. At the meeting, New Found Gold outlined the current Project design. Provincial and federal representatives raised questions and identified key issues for New Found Gold to address in its assessment.

To date, the following provincial and federal government departments have been involved in regulatory consultation on the Project:

- Government of NL
 - Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change
 - Climate Change Branch
 - EA Division
 - Pollution Prevention Division
 - Water Resources Management Division
 - Department of Energy and Mines
 - Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
 - Crown Lands Division
 - Lands Management Division - Agriculture Lands
 - Lands Management Division - Planning
 - Wildlife Division
 - Department of Health and Community Services
 - Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
 - Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
 - Tourism and Parks Branch
 - Provincial Archaeology Office
 - Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Government of Canada
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

New Found Gold will continue to consult with government departments and agencies throughout the EA review process and during preparation of follow-up and monitoring programs.

5.3 Feedback

As identified in Sections 5.1 and 5.2, New Found Gold is actively engaging with local communities, stakeholders, and regulators to maintain open communication, foster strong relationships, and promote transparency throughout Project development. Feedback received through various engagement outlets, including meetings, community events, correspondence, the Land and Resource Use Survey (Appendix 13.A), and discussions with stakeholders, has been documented by New Found Gold. A summary of this feedback, along with New Found Gold's responses and actions to date, is presented in Table 5.5. Table 5.5 also references the section(s) in this Environmental Registration where additional information on the topic can be found.

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Project Description / Component		
How many square kilometres is the site footprint (the "sandbox")? Will the footprint of the project change?	At this stage of Project planning, the site footprint (or "sandbox") is estimated to be approximately 10 hectares. This footprint represents the area proposed to accommodate the main Project facilities and supporting infrastructure. The exact size of the footprint is preliminary and may be refined as engineering, detailed design, and regulatory approvals progress.	Section 4.4.1
How deep will the pits be?	The Project proposes four open pits, with depths varying depending on the size and location of each deposit. Based on current mine planning, pit depths are expected to range from approximately 45 to 240 metres. Details on the physical parameters of the pits are provided in Section 4, Table 4.9. Final pit designs may be refined as detailed engineering and mine planning progress.	Section 4.4.1
What will happen to the pits once mining is complete? What if you can't fully fill them in?	Once mining is complete, open pits will be rehabilitated in accordance with an approved Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, which is a requirement under the provincial <i>Mining Act</i> . While it is planned that mineralized material below cut off grade and potentially acid generation waste rock will be placed in the mined-out Keats pit, there is no current plan to backfill the other pits. Instead, the pits will be allowed to flood to create pit lakes, as is typical for many mining projects.	Section 4.5.4
How many buildings will New Found Gold be putting up?	At this stage of Project planning, the exact number of buildings has not yet been finalized. The proposed mine is expected to include a range of supporting infrastructure similar to a quarry operation, such as crushing facilities, maintenance and storage buildings, and offices, as the crushed rock will be transported offsite for processing and milling. The number, size, and layout of buildings will be further refined as engineering and detailed design progress. Additional information on the proposed infrastructure is provided in Section 4.4.	Section 4.4
Concerns over where the resource will be processed and the potential for on-site milling/tailings	<p>Project ore will not be processed on-site other than crushing similar to a quarry operation. The crushed rock will be transported to the Pine Cove mill, an approved and permitted processing facility located on the Baie Verte Peninsula. This facility has been in operation since 2010, serves other mining operations such as Hammerdown and Point Rousse, and was previously released under the provincial EA process with conditions (Registration No. 1182). The mill is licensed to process up to 1,280 tonnes per day and will undergo necessary modifications to accommodate the Project ore. Tailings from the Project will also be managed at this facility, using existing permitted tailings storage capacity.</p> <p>If New Found Gold were to plan future expansions of the Project, such as onsite processing facilities, we are aware that these activities would be subject to additional EA requirements in the future.</p>	Section 4.6, Section 4.10

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Will New Found Gold be using their own trucks to transport rock to Baie Verte?	It is still being determined if it will be a trucking service provider or New Found Gold-owned trucks. During full-time operation, ore would be transported from the Project site to the Pine Cove processing facility near Baie Verte using heavy-haul trucks operating on public roads. Ore transportation is planned using 30- to 40-tonne haul trucks with tridem tractor-trailer configurations, which meet provincial legal gross weight limits. It is anticipated that approximately 10 trucks would each complete two round trips per day between the Project site and the Pine Cove facility. Further details on haulage and traffic are provided in Section 4 (Section 4.5.3.4; Figures 4.19 and 4.20).	Section 4.5.3.4
Restoration of land after Project activities are completed / closure of mine	The provincial government requires mining projects to have a Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, which includes plans for restoring disturbed areas. To guarantee that rehabilitation and closure are completed, companies must post a financial assurance with the provincial government prior to construction. This assurance covers the full cost of rehabilitation should the company be unable to fulfill its obligations. New Found Gold will prepare and implement a Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and provide the financial assurance in compliance with these requirements.	Section 4.5.4
Desire to be environmentally responsible	New Found Gold is committed to environmental responsibility by implementing environmental monitoring and management plans, applying mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts, and following best management practices throughout the planned phases of the Project. During its ongoing exploration activities, New Found Gold has carried out operations using methods that consider sustainability and are environmentally responsible. As a result, New Found Gold has gained public trust regarding the completion of activities in an environmentally and socially responsible way. New Found Gold will continue to engage with regulators and stakeholders to implement adaptive management measures to issues or concerns that may arise throughout the life of the Project.	Section 4.9
Would like to know more about phase 2, on-site milling, cyanide, etc.	This Environmental Registration addresses the Project as outlined in Section 4. While New Found Gold continues to explore the potential for future expansion of the Project, there are more studies, exploration, and data collection required before New Found Gold would be in a position to advance plans for a larger development. Therefore, we are currently seeking government approval for the Project as outlined and assessed in this Registration, which is economically viable as a stand-alone undertaking. If New Found Gold were to pursue expansion of the Project in the future, these activities would require a separate Registration and government approval process, including associated public and stakeholder engagement. New Found Gold's corporate website includes information available to date on activities at the Queensway property.	Section 3

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Are there any plans for further development at Queensway? Are any exploration or developments planned for south of Gander Lake?	New Found Gold is actively conducting exploration in additional regions of Queensway. This Project stands independently and is economically viable on its own. However, our objective is to pursue further exploration to discover new deposits, which could extend mining operation well beyond the current project's lifespan.	
Employment and Expenditures		
How many more people will New Found Gold be hiring for the operation of the mine?	Once operational, the Project will employ between 117 and 239 full-time equivalents. Table 4.27 presents the various occupations required for Project construction and operation, along with their National Occupational Classification codes.	Section 4.8.1
How many employees work for New Found Gold that are living in Appleton or Glenwood?	For privacy reasons, New Found Gold does not release employee numbers for specific communities such as Appleton or Glenwood. However, as of December 2025, 88% of employees working at New Found Gold sites are residents of NL, with 61% from central Newfoundland. New Found Gold prioritizes local hiring and encourages its contractors to source local labour, supplies, and services whenever possible.	Section 4.8
Any timeline on procurement?	According to our news release, we are now focused on obtaining permits, with plans to finish the permitting process in 2026 and begin early works in the fourth quarter of that year. Procurement will commence once most permitting is secured, as we prepare for site activities.	
Project will bring employment and long-term benefits to the communities, specifically an opportunity for skilled mine workers to return home	New Found Gold is committed to prioritizing local hiring (>80% of current employees are from NL). The various occupations required for construction and operation of the Project are presented in Section 4.8. New Found Gold will proactively share employment information with local communities so that local residents and training institutions have an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to qualify for potential employment on the Project. New Found Gold is dedicated to supporting local communities by collaborating with municipalities and organizations, prioritizing local hiring, and offering apprenticeships, training programs, and timely communication of employment and procurement opportunities, with an emphasis on inclusivity and supporting diverse groups.	Section 4.8 Section 12
Encourages investment in surrounding areas and local infrastructure (e.g., Appleton Industrial Park)	New Found Gold supports regional economic growth and infrastructure development by creating opportunities that can attract investment in surrounding areas, such as the Appleton Industrial Park, through increased economic activity and collaboration with local businesses.	Section 12
Boost to the economy and support for development, particularly in central Newfoundland	New Found Gold will support economic growth in central Newfoundland by creating jobs, investing in infrastructure, and promoting local procurement. The company will continue to work with communities, prioritise local hiring, and offer apprenticeships and training. It will communicate employment opportunities clearly and encourage diverse participation.	Section 12

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Has New Found Gold established an emergency response plan in collaboration with the Glenwood Fire Department?	The Project is currently undergoing EA, and the emergency response plan will be developed once the EA process is complete. However, New Found Gold has already begun collaborating with the Glenwood Fire Department by providing sponsorship funds to support training and resources the department may require to prepare for potential future site activities. New Found Gold has also held initial discussions with the Fire Chief and has committed that, once the EA and final Project design are complete, the company will work closely with the department to develop a comprehensive emergency response plan.	Section 5.2
Engagement		
Need for maintaining an open and respectful line of communication with residents and local users	As described Section 5.1, New Found Gold is committed to holding regular community meetings and open forums designed to provide transparency and mutual understanding. New Found Gold will continue to engage with local resource users regarding the overlap of the Project with land use areas in the Project Area. This will include the communication of Project information, updates on ongoing and planned activities, a discussion of issues and concerns, and a potential means of addressing them.	Section 5 Section 13
Lack of community involvement	New Found Gold values community engagement and recognizes its importance throughout the life of the Project. As outlined in Table 5.3, the company has actively participated in numerous community events and engaged with several local groups to foster relationships, create opportunities, and explore sponsorships. New Found Gold remains committed to maintaining open communication and meaningful involvement with local communities and looks forward to continuing this dialogue as the Project progresses.	Section 5.2
How do we engage with purchasing and engineering?	New Found Gold has actively worked with local vendors and suppliers, building a list of potential vendors. When services are needed, these vendors will be given the opportunity to bid on the work. In addition to compiling this vendor list, New Found Gold is committed to supporting the regional economy by prioritizing collaboration with local businesses whenever possible. The company maintains transparency and fairness throughout the bidding process, allowing vendors to compete for contracts based on merit and capability. By engaging local suppliers, New Found Gold aims to foster meaningful partnerships, encourage economic growth within the community, and contribute positively to the areas where it operates.	
Can we do joint sponsorships to support community events?	New Found Gold launched a formal community sponsorship policy and application process in January 2026, under which sponsorship requests are collected and reviewed on a monthly basis, with approvals guided by established community sponsorship criteria. This proactive approach reflects the company's dedication to clear communication and fostering local support as the Project advances.	Section 5.1

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Regulatory hurdles or slow approvals associated with government approval and development of mine site	New Found Gold recognizes that regulatory approvals are an essential part of responsible project development. The company is committed to working collaboratively with municipal, provincial and federal governments to meet requirements and support an efficient review process. New Found Gold will maintain open communication with regulators and stakeholders, provide timely information, and take reasonable steps within its control to help advance the approval process while remaining compliant with applicable standards.	Section 5.2
Air Quality		
Air quality (dust emissions) – potential air pollution to the surrounding towns of Appleton and Glenwood	Air quality dispersion studies have been conducted to understand Project interactions and are provided in Section 7.4.1. Mitigation measures have been identified, as necessary, to manage adverse effects in Section 7.3.	Section 7
Noise and vibration concerns, for example site activities and blasting	Noise studies have been conducted to evaluate the potential effects of blasting activities and is provided in Section 7.4.2. Mitigation measures, such as scheduling blasts during appropriate hours and using noise-reducing technologies, will be adopted to reduce disturbance to surrounding communities. Where practicable, New Found Gold has sited Project components to reduce adverse effects from noise to nearby residents. In particular, site infrastructure is located east of the open pits to reduce noise and other impacts on the Town of Appleton. Enclosures, berms, or other barriers may be considered for activities involving excessive noise emissions. Specifically, a noise berm is proposed, as described in Section 4.7.2, to reduce potential effects of sound emissions on nearby receptors.	Section 7
Water Quality		
Potential effects to surface water and groundwater, and subsequent effects to fish, in particular salmon	Groundwater (Section 8.4) and surface water (Section 9.4) studies have been conducted to understand Project interactions and determine the need for mitigation measures to meet regulatory thresholds and mitigate adverse effects. Project-related discharges will be required to comply with provincial and federal standards, and monitoring will be conducted to assess water quality throughout the life of the Project. Project infrastructure has been sited to avoid fish habitat to the extent practicable. Where impacts to fish habitat cannot be avoided, the habitat will be offset, as required by the habitat protection provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> .	Section 8 Section 9 Section 10

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Effects on local communities from potential water pollution from Project activities, including the need to protect the Gander Protected Public Water Supply Area	Groundwater and surface water studies have been conducted to understand Project-related discharges and to identify the need for mitigation. Primary mine infrastructure is located within a single sub-watershed (Herman's Pond) that drains to the Gander River (downstream of Gander Lake) to avoid the potential for effects on Gander Lake. Project-related discharges will be required to comply with provincial and federal standards, and monitoring will be conducted to assess water quality throughout the life of the Project.	Section 9
What about the water within the watershed that does flow toward Gander River? What happens with the water used on site? Will it be treated?	<p>The Project is located within three sub-watersheds that drain either toward the Gander River or Gander Lake; however, nearly all primary mine infrastructure, including the pits, stockpiles, waste rock storage facility, and crushing and sorting plant, is located within a single sub-watershed (Herman's Pond) that drains to the Gander River downstream of Gander Lake. Only the site access road and a small portion of the industrial terrace extend into the Gander Lake drainage area, and runoff from the industrial terrace will be directed back toward the Herman's Pond sub-watershed through site drainage controls.</p> <p>To support safe and environmentally responsible operation, extensive baseline surface-water and groundwater studies have been completed and will inform a site-specific Water Management Plan, which will outline how water is collected, managed, and treated as needed. Project-related water discharges will be required to meet provincial and federal water-quality standards, with ongoing monitoring conducted throughout the life of the Project. Infrastructure has been sited to avoid fish habitat where possible, and where avoidance is not feasible, habitat offsetting will be implemented in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Act</i>.</p>	Section 4.4.10
Communities		
How will the Town of Appleton and other local communities benefit from the Project in the long-term?	The Project is expected to support long-term employment, local business opportunities, and regional economic activity in Appleton and nearby communities, while encouraging local hiring and procurement and maintaining ongoing engagement with community stakeholders.	Section 12
Potential lack of community infrastructure for increased workforce	New Found Gold acknowledges concerns about potential limitations in community infrastructure and will work to reduce impacts by prioritizing local hiring, using existing accommodations where possible, and coordinating with local municipalities to identify and support infrastructure needs related to the workforce. An assessment on community services and infrastructure is provided in Section 12.4.2. As detailed in the assessment, given that the Project labour force will be relatively small in number and a large portion will be from local communities and NL, effects from the Project on change in infrastructure and services are anticipated to result in a small measurable change. New Found Gold will continue to work with municipalities and economic development organizations to identify opportunities to reduce negative impacts of the Project-related population growth and enhance positive socio-economic benefits to local communities.	Section 12

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Potential traffic impacts in Appleton	To reduce potential traffic impacts in the Town of Appleton, New Found Gold will develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan, which will include encouraging carpooling and requiring Project drivers and employees to observe speed limits and take safety precautions. When practicable, shift changes and truck movements will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic hours and school bus pick-up and drop-off times. The Project will include a new site access road and access to the Trans-Canada Highway. This will allow direct highway access for light vehicles and mine haulage trucks, thereby avoiding increased traffic in the Appleton Industrial Park.	Section 12
Safety concerns over traffic and construction on trails	Mitigation measures will be developed and implemented to address potential safety concerns as part of the Traffic Management Plan. Construction activities on or near trails will adhere to established safety protocols, including maintaining clear signage, restricting unauthorized access, and coordinating with local stakeholders to reduce disruptions.	Section 12 Section 13
Risk of reduced sense of community and social pressures from influx of workers	New Found Gold recognizes the importance of maintaining a strong sense of community and will work to reduce social pressures from an influx of workers by prioritizing local hiring where possible, and supporting community programs. New Found Gold will implement several policies with the aim of reducing Project effects on community well-being, including a Respectful Workplace Policy, a Workplace Etiquette Policy, and a Drug and Alcohol Policy. New Found Gold will also continue to work with municipalities to identify opportunities to reduce negative impacts of Project-related population growth and enhance positive socio-economic benefits in local communities.	Section 12
Uncertainty related to local property values and population growth	New Found Gold recognizes the potential for changes in local property values, which can be affected by multiple factors. New Found Gold expects the majority of Project employees to be from the local region, which will reduce population growth and impact on community services. New Found Gold will regularly engage with the local municipalities to address potential issues as they arise and will have a grievance mechanism in place to address individual concerns.	Section 12
Uncertainty about benefits or royalties for local residents	New Found Gold recognizes the importance of transparency and ongoing dialogue regarding potential benefits for local communities. New Found Gold anticipates that it will be required to sign a Benefits Agreement with the provincial government as part of Project approval. While specific details related to benefits or royalties have not yet been finalized, the company is committed to continued engagement with stakeholders to discuss opportunities and address questions as the Project progresses. Future decisions will be communicated clearly and collaboratively.	Section 12
How will mining operation (e.g., blasting) impact daily life?	Mining operation will involve routine activities, such as vehicle movement, equipment operation, blasting once a day, and on-site maintenance. These activities will be conducted in compliance with safety and environmental requirements.	Section 4.5

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Wildlife		
Concerns for habitat destruction and subsequent effects to wildlife	Potential Project related effects on fish and fish habitat (Section 10) and the terrestrial environment (Section 11) have been assessed for this Project. Mitigation measures described in each of the respective assessment sections will be implemented to reduce adverse effects on water, fish, vegetation, wetlands, and wildlife. Efforts have been made to site Project components to reduce environmental impact. In particular, placement of mine waste is purposely designed to avoid being placed in waters frequented by fish. Based on the assessment, no significant effects to fish and fish habitat and the terrestrial environment have been predicted.	Section 10 Section 11
Land and Resource Use		
Potential disruption of recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, berry picking, wood harvesting, and hiking activities and all-terrain vehicle trails in the area	New Found Gold will continue to engage with local resource users regarding the overlap of the Project with land use areas in the vicinity of the Project. This will include communicating Project information and updates on ongoing and planned activities, and discussing issues and concerns as well as potential means of addressing them. Information on land and resource use in the area has been collected through an online Land and Resource Use survey to inform communication and potential mitigation measures for local users. Where practicable, New Found Gold has sited Project components to reduce adverse effects to recreational users. In particular, stockpiles and crushing activities have been sited to reduce visibility and noise impacts on T’Railway Provincial Park (T’Railway) users. If complaints are received from land users regarding Project-related effects, New Found Gold will work with the affected land users to address their concerns through a grievance redress mechanism and the potential implementation of additional mitigation measures as needed.	Section 13
The need for clear identification of prohibited zones, including clarification of why certain areas in and around the Project site may be closed to hunting during the hunting season	Signage will be installed around the mine site to alert the public and land users of the presence of the Project and its facilities. New Found Gold currently posts “no hunting” signs in areas where active work is occurring in order to protect the health and safety of employees and the public. This would continue through Project construction and operation. These restrictions are intended to apply to the immediate work areas.	Section 13
Loss of traditional land, including traditional hunting due to prohibited zones	Given the relatively small Project footprint, and the absence of documented Indigenous land use within the Project Area (Appendix 13.B), New Found Gold does not anticipate significant adverse effects on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. While traditional activities have been identified within approximately 5 kilometres of the Project Area, these do not overlap with the Project footprint. New Found Gold will continue to engage with the Qalipu to avoid or reduce potential effects on land use.	Section 13

Table 5.5 Engagement Feedback

Comments / Questions Raised	New Found Gold Response / Action	Reference Section
Impact on tourism and local economy (e.g., Gander River activities)	New Found Gold will continue engaging with local tourism operators (e.g., outfitters) and community stakeholders to prevent interference with recreational activities, such as those on the Gander River, by maintaining open dialogue for feedback and concerns and monitoring water quality to protect fishing and boating opportunities. While low magnitude effects are predicted to local outfitters as discussed in Section 13.4.2, New Found Gold will consult with the NL Outfitters Association and NL Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation to determine if an Outfitter Environmental Effects Monitoring Program is required. If required, the plan will be developed in collaboration with both parties with the goal of establishing a process to monitor for potential effects of the Project on local outfitters and mitigate effects as needed.	Section 5 Section 13
Proximity to residents, including cabin owners, and whether this Project requires buying/moving residences in Appleton due to mining activities	New Found Gold will consult these cabin owners about their occupancy, future use of the cabins, and possible mitigation steps. As detailed Project design progresses, New Found Gold will maintain appropriate distances between Project activities and residences and will monitor for compliance with applicable air quality and noise guidelines and regulations. Additional mitigation will be implemented, if required. Should complaints arise regarding perceived Project effects, New Found Gold will collaborate with affected users to resolve concerns through a grievance mechanism, implementing further mitigation, if necessary.	Section 5 Section 13
Will the T'Railway Provincial Park be impacted?	The Project footprint has been deliberately designed to avoid permanent development within the T'Railway corridor. Project components, such as the crusher and stockpiles have been strategically sited away from the T'Railway and the Trans-Canada Highway to reduce visual effects and interactions with recreational users. The only direct interaction with the park is a planned crossing where the site access road intersects the T'Railway. Required permits and approvals will be obtained for this crossing and appropriate safety features will be installed in consultation with relevant authorities. In addition, New Found Gold will work with regulators to support a public education program related to the mine access crossing, and recreational use of the T'Railway is expected to continue without restriction.	Section 4 Section 13

6 Assessment Scope and Methods

6.1 Overall Approach

As discussed in Section 3.2, the construction and operation of the mine will trigger provincial environmental assessment (EA) requirements under the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act* (NL EPA). EA is a tool for planning and decision-making that is used to predict the potential environmental effects of a project before it is constructed. This chapter describes the methods used to assess the effects of Project activities and components on the biophysical and socio-economic environments. The approach for this assessment is based on methods developed by Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) to fulfill requirements of the provincial NL EPA for an Environmental Registration document.

The scope of the assessment encompasses the proposed Project components and activities, an understanding of the existing environmental conditions and sensitivities, relevant regulations, policies, and guidelines, insights gained from stakeholder engagement to date, as well as the professional experience and expertise of New Found Gold and its consultants. The method uses a precautionary and conservative stance, with assumptions intentionally structured to overestimate potential adverse effects.

Baseline conditions for each valued component (VC) are characterized within the defined spatial and temporal boundaries for the assessment, using publicly available information, and Project-specific field programs conducted from 2022 to 2025. Note that in some cases, analysis and reporting of these data is not yet available and will be provided to regulators at a later date. Potential interactions between the Project and VCs are identified, with residual effects described in consideration of proposed mitigation measures. The significance of these residual effects is evaluated according to established criteria. Where data limitations or uncertainties exist regarding effect predictions or mitigation effectiveness, follow-up and monitoring activities are recommended.

6.2 Scope of the Assessment

6.2.1 Scope of the Project

The scope of the Project encompasses components and activities necessary for the construction, operation, rehabilitation, and eventual closure of the Project's facilities throughout its lifecycle. Project components and activities are described in Chapter 4. As described in Section 4.6, the Project will use off-site processing at a permitted and operating facility that was previously subject to the provincial EA process and released with conditions (Registration Number: 1182). Section 4.6 outlines the changes and modifications anticipated at the Pine Cove Mill as a result of Project activities. As stated, these changes and modifications are either within the scope of activities and effects previously assessed or are anticipated to result in negligible additional environmental effects, and will not require additional mitigation measures beyond those previously identified. Applicable permits / approvals and management plans will be updated and submitted to government review prior to these modification activities occurring. Given the discussion in Section 4.6, further consideration of off-site processing is not considered necessary and has not been carried forward through the remainder of the assessment.

6.2.2 Selection of Valued Components

The VCs for this assessment were chosen based on the following factors:

- Regulatory guidance and requirements (Section 3.2)
- Preliminary discussions with regulatory agencies prior to Registration
- Technical knowledge of the Project
- Existing conditions for the physical, biological and socio-economic environments (Section 4.1.2)
- Experience from previous similar EAs
- Professional judgement of the Study Team

The following VCs were selected for further assessment:

- Atmospheric Environment
- Groundwater Resources
- Surface Water Resources
- Fish and Fish Habitat
- Terrestrial Environment (including species at risk and species of conservation concern)
- Communities
- Land and Resource Use
- Historic Resources

6.2.3 Assessment Boundaries

The scope of the assessment is defined by spatial boundaries (i.e., geographic extent of the Project and potential effects) and temporal boundaries (i.e., timing of potential effects). The spatial boundaries reflect the geographic range over which potential environmental or socio-economic effects may occur, whereas temporal boundaries identify when an environmental or socio-economic effect may occur throughout the different phases of the Project. The spatial boundaries include the following:

- The Project Area encompasses the immediate area in which Project activities and components occur. The Project Area is the anticipated area of direct physical disturbance associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of the Project.
- The Local Assessment Area (LAA) encompasses the area in which Project-related environmental effects (direct or indirect) can be predicted or measured for assessment. The LAA, which is specific to each VC, encompasses the Project Area and is selected in consideration of the geographic extent of effects on the given VC.
- The Regional Assessment Area (RAA) is a broader area used to describe existing (baseline) conditions and to provide context for the assessment of residual effects. The RAA is VC specific and encompasses both the Project Area and the LAA.

VC-specific spatial boundaries and mapping of the boundaries for each VC are provided in the respective VC sections.

Temporal boundaries for the assessment are based on the timeframes over which potential effects could occur as a result of Project construction, operation, and decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure phases. The overall Project schedule is presented in Section 4.3.

Pending release from EA, the temporal boundaries for the Project consist of the following phases:

- Construction (including early works): Approximately 6 to 12 months. Site preparation and early works are anticipated to be initiated in 2026 Q4 and be approximately 6 months. Construction and development are anticipated to begin 2027 Q1 and extend to 2027 Q2.
- Operation: Operation is anticipated to occur in Q3 2027 with a 7-year life of mine.
- Rehabilitation and Closure: While progressive rehabilitation will occur throughout the life of the mine, rehabilitation and closure activities will take place after economically viable ore has been removed from the site, approximately 3 years starting in 2034.

6.3 Potential Project Interactions

Table 6.1 indicates where there is a potential interaction between Project activities and the VCs identified for the assessment.

Table 6.1 Potential Project Interactions with Valued Components

Project Activities	Atmospheric Environment	Groundwater Resources	Surface Water Resources	Fish and Fish Habitat	Terrestrial Environment	Communities	Land and Resource Use	Historic Resources
CONSTRUCTION								
Site Preparation/Earthworks (including Early Works): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear/grub vegetation and topsoil within designated development areas (pits, Waste Rock Storage Facility, Run-of-Mine pad, overburden storage facility, industrial terrace area) • excavate/place structural fill/grade for infrastructure installation • strip and stockpile organic and overburden materials • develop in-pit quarries (structural fill, road gravel). Includes temporary surface water and groundwater management, installation of erosion and sediment control measures, and presence of people and equipment on site 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Road Construction/Upgrading (including Early Works): Construct and upgrade new site access road and on-site roads	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Site Power Supply and Communications Infrastructure (including Early Works): Installing and commissioning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Dewatering of South Hermans Pond	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓

Table 6.1 Potential Project Interactions with Valued Components

Project Activities	Atmospheric Environment	Groundwater Resources	Surface Water Resources	Fish and Fish Habitat	Terrestrial Environment	Communities	Land and Resource Use	Historic Resources
Installation of Infrastructure and Equipment: Place concrete foundations; install/construct infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Construction-related Traffic	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Employment and Expenditures ^A	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
OPERATION								
Open Pit Mining: Blast, excavate and haul rock from open pits using conventional mining equipment	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Ore Crushing and Sorting	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-
Waste Rock Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Water Management	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Utilities, Infrastructure, and Other Facilities: Includes explosives storage, access and site road maintenance and snow clearing, power and fuel supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Operation-related Traffic: Includes transportation of ore within the LAA/RAA	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Progressive Rehabilitation	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Employment and Expenditures ^A	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
REHABILITATION AND CLOSURE								
Decommission and Remove Mine Features and Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Rehabilitation and Closure-related Traffic	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Closure Rehabilitation	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Post-Closure Monitoring	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Employment and Expenditures ^A	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

Notes:

✓ = Potential interaction

- = No interaction

^A Project employment and expenditures are generated by most Project activities and components and are the main drivers of many socio-economic effects. Rather than acknowledging this by placing a checkmark against each of these activities, "Employment and Expenditures" is an additional component under each Project phase.

6.4 Mitigation and Management Measures

Once potential effects are identified for a VC, mitigation measures are developed to reduce adverse environmental effects and enhance positive outcomes. Proposed mitigation measures are both technically and economically viable, aiming to avoid, reduce, or manage negative effects, respond to public concerns, and enhance benefits where possible. These measures may encompass standard management practices, as well as VC-specific solutions addressing issues, such as habitat offsetting or compensation, along with planned environmental management and response initiatives. Standard environmental management measures are provided in Section 4.9. Additional VC-specific mitigation is provided in the respective VC assessments. A summary of mitigation measures is provided in Section 16, Table 16.1.

6.5 Residual Environmental Effects

The effects assessment uses scientific literature, monitoring data, and available knowledge, to analyze potential environmental changes to the VC from the Project, including input from communities, stakeholders, and Indigenous groups. It focuses on residual effects that remain after mitigation, assessing their magnitude, area, duration, frequency, reversibility, and likelihood. The significance of these residual effects is determined using VC-specific thresholds; if exceeded, an effect is considered to be significant.

6.6 Follow-up and Monitoring

Follow-up and monitoring programs are determined for each VC, where needed. Specific programs may be implemented to confirm the accuracy of key EA predictions and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Compliance monitoring will verify adherence to applicable regulatory requirements, including terms and conditions of environmental permits, approvals, or authorizations issued for the Project.